SULLIVAN: PROPOSED CASINO JUST GREED, PG10

Sports pg 14

Chan skates to silver at world's

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UVER • WEEKEND, MARCH 26-28, 2010 metronews.ca

Celebrity pg 34

Musician reportedly owes princely sum

U.S. lawmakers receive threats over health care

AFTERMATH Democrats and a few Republicans said Thursday they have received numerous threats in the emotional aftermath of the passage of the health care overhaul.

They include a fax bearing the image of a noose, profane voice mails, bricks thrown through windows, a gas line cut and white powder sent to an office.

An undisclosed number of lawmakers have been given increased police protection. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 11

Entertainment pg 30

Don Cherry, warts and all

On the web
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KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Chef Grant Macdonald at Yew Restaurant and Bar at the Four Seasons Hotel Vancouver. The restaurant is one of many in the city that will be turning off its lights and serving dinner by candlelight on Saturday for Earth Hour.

United for Earth Hour

Event's growth signals new universal green culture, says prof

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

The success of Earth Hour — which has grown from one city to more than 4,000 in just three years — reflects a new universal green culture that transcends race, religion, and geography, according to a University of B.C. sociology professor.

On Saturday, roughly 1 billion people — including millions in Metro Vancouver — are expected to turn off their lights at 8:30 p.m. in the fourth annual global display of solidarity against climate change.

The movement has grown so quickly in large part because concern for the welfare of the planet is universal, said Christopher Schneider, a professor at UBC Okanagan.

"Whether or not people subscribe to (the global warming theory), we all still have to live on Earth. (This is one of) a few things that we all have in common with one another," he said.

Aside from being able to walk out and see your city in a new light — or lack of — some of the traditions being developed around Earth Hour are helping make it stick.

"Cultures develop traditions and holidays to remind itself of its values," Schneider said.

In Vancouver, the tradition has become to have a meal or play board games by candlelight. Restaurants are advertising special dark dining menus and government buildings are turning off their lights.

Tara Wood, a spokesperson for World Wildlife Federation Canada, said this generation could be remembered for its united resolve to keep the planet healthy.

"Our individual efforts can add up to make a big difference (fighting climate change), and with Earth Hour you can actually see that."

She credits social media with making and spreading the message.

Message online

- For more information go to earthhourcanada.org.

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Enjoying unlit skies, candlelight

AROUND THE WORLD:

- The event began in 2007 in Sydney, Australia with 2.2 million participants in 2007, and grew in one year to include 370 cities.
- In 2009 participation shot up again to 4,000 cities and 1 billion people.
- The goal this year is to have 6,000 cities participating.
- Canada is leading the global movement with more than 250 cities on board.

IN VANCOUVER:

Many restaurants and bars are going dark for Earth Hour, including:

- The Fairmont Pacific Rim's Oru and Pan Asian Bistro will be offering a Cocktails And Candles soirée. The hotel will also be doing check-ins by candlelight.
- Twenty-five restaurants along Commercial Drive will be serving candlelight dinners. Visit thedrive.ca for participants.
- Grouse Mountain will be hosting candlelight dinners at the Observatory and Altitudes Bistro restaurants.

ICONIC LANDMARKS GOING DARK FOR THE FIRST TIME:

- The Whistler Sliding Centre
- The Forbidden City in Beijing
- The Trevi Fountain, below, in Rome

METRO VANCOUVER

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Local

Lilith Fair coming this July

Music festival Lilith Fair will be held at the Pitt Meadows Airport on Canada Day. Among the acts will be Sheryl Crow, Erykah Badu, Colbie Caillat and founder Sarah McLachlan, left. METRO VANCOUVER

New trial for Pickton not warranted, lawyer argues

PROSECUTION Robert Pickton was the "head honcho" in the murders of six Vancouver prostitutes and any mistakes at his trial should not undo his lawful conviction, the Supreme Court of Canada heard Thursday.

B.C. prosecutor John Gordon told the high court no errors were made by the judge at Pickton's 2007 trial — and even if there were errors, they were so minor they do not warrant a new trial.

Gordon was rebutting earlier arguments by Pickton's lawyer, Gil McKinnon, that the former pig farmer did not receive a fair trial when he was convicted of six second-degree murder charges in the deaths of sex-trade workers from the Downtown Eastside.

Pickton's appeal hinges on instructions the trial judge gave to jurors after they returned with a question on the sixth day of deliberations. They wanted to know whether they could still convict Pickton if he was aided by an accomplice.

The Supreme Court reserved judgment Thursday and it could be months before it reaches a decision. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY
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Hammer attack on senior

Suspect nabbed after repeated blows cracked man's skull

GREG DOWNS
for Metro Vancouver

A Vancouver senior who was attacked with a sledgehammer said on Thursday he won't be victimized again.

"I hope I see him (assailant)," said Leo, 72, a Point Grey resident who did not want his last name used. "Then I go after him."

At around 3 p.m. on Wednesday, as Leo returned from lunch in the Downtown Eastside, he was struck with a 1.4-kilogram sledgehammer six to seven times — cracking his skull. The brutal attack only stopped when the senior managed to grab the weapon and a nearby woman screamed.

The wound required seven staples to close.

Leo's son, Stephen, who also didn't want his last name used for fear of retaliation, said that if the victim had been a more frail senior — and not his feisty father — the situation could have been much worse.

"He is a very strong man and very confident. He can always look after himself," Stephen said.

Vancouver police Const. Jana McGuinness said officers arrested a 46-year-old suspect hours after the attack.

She added that this was a crime of opportunity. Leo, as a senior, may have seemed like an easy target.

Sgt. Mark Steinkampf said beat officers worked hard to track down the alleged assailant.

"We pull out all stops to solve crimes that involve elders," he said.

"We find that when they are victimized, they are injured more because they're older and their bones are broken easier. And their injuries are more significant and take longer for them to heal."

Danny Jordan is facing assault and robbery charges.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Leo, who did not want his last name published, shows the staples he received after being hit in the head with a sledgehammer in the Downtown Eastside.

Blackmore seeking government funds in court

BOUNTIFUL Winston Blackmore, one of the spiritual leaders in Bountiful who police believe has 19 wives and more than 100 children, will ask a judge on Friday for government funding and special status in a case expected to be heard in the fall that will test Canada's polygamy laws.

The provincial government has asked the B.C. Supreme Court to decide whether the federal law against multiple marriages violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, one of the only options left after a judge tossed out charges against Blackmore and another leader in Bountiful late last year.

"This will be the case that determines it for Canada," said Vancouver lawyer Arthur Grant, who specializes in constitutional law.

And even if it doesn't head to the Supreme Court of Canada, said Grant, courts in other provinces would give the B.C. decision considerable weight if they ever deal with polygamy cases of their own.

Blackmore and James Oler were charged in January 2009 with one count each of practising polygamy, two decades after police first began looking into Bountiful, whose members are of a fundamentalist offshoot of the Mormon church.

Blackmore was accused of having 19 wives, and Oler three.

The pair successfully challenged those charges. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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See the Local page to learn how to scan.

News in brief

APOLOGY The Fraser Health Authority has apologized after one of its employees mistakenly cut the beard off an elderly Sikh man weeks before he died. It marks the second time such an incident has occurred under the organization's watch in the last two years.

FILM/TV Movie and TV productions spent $1.3 billion in B.C. in 2009 — that's $100 million more than was spent in 2008. And that's despite 21 fewer productions in the province.

DRIVERS Police on Thursday asked drivers to calm down and be patient after officers and paramedics were yelled at while dealing with a collision in North Vancouver. Cpl. Marlene Morton said yelling and beeping only added to people's frustration when a Jeep and Pathfinder collided on Lillooet Road Wednesday.

THEFTS Robberies in Vancouver have declined by 32 per cent between 1999 and 2008, according to Statistics Canada. That's above the national average, which is 10 per cent.

REHAB Hereditary chiefs and the leadership of the Ahousaht First Nation have sent 30 more people to a drug-addiction rehab facility after the community demanded action about the problems in the Vancouver Island village.

RESORT Bear Mountain, a Vancouver Island resort development headed by ex-NHLer Len Barrie, was placed under court protection from creditors on Thursday.

FEE City council has scrapped the idea of implementing a $50 fee for people planning block parties. The fee would've covered the cost of city services such as putting up barricades.

LAWSUIT B.C. Housing is suing the Downtown Eastside Residents Association Housing Society for allegedly mismanaging three downtown properties. The government is seeking $500,000 and new management to take over the 286 housing units in the buildings.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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The Vancouver Canucks want to know what you think. Every spring, the team asks fans to pick the Canucks' most valuable player, most exciting player and most outstanding defenceman. Vote at Canucks.com. **METRO VANCOUVER**

Whitecaps start countdown

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Soccer fans in Vancouver are less than a year away from watching their team return to the top level of professional soccer in North America.

On Thursday, the Whitecaps FC marked the one-year countdown of joining Major League Soccer.

"With every project, you'd like to see the finish line in sight," said new Whitecaps CEO Paul Barber.

"It can be a little scary, because there is a lot to do."

Milestones that the franchise must reach in the next 12 months include signing a major company as a shirt sponsor and the unveiling of their new uniforms, which is planned for late spring or early summer.

They are also trying to build a training facility and will have to move stadiums twice, from Swangard to Empire and then to B.C. Place.

The first block of 5,000 season tickets sold out in less than 48 hours. Barber said there is great support for soccer in Vancouver, with a waiting list having already formed of people wanting tickets.

The team is planning to release another block of season tickets imminently.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Whitecaps CEO Paul Barber, from left, with Premier Gordon Campbell, MLS president Mark Abbott, Mayor Gregor Robertson and Whitecaps president Bob Lenarduzzi Thursday at the one-year countdown to the team's move into Major League Soccer.

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News in brief

UFC The Vancouver Athletic Commission has given conditional approval to the UFC to hold a mixed martial arts card in the city June 12.

The five-member commission appointed by city council controls and sets rules for any boxing or mixed martial arts promotions. The conditional OK depends on insurance issues the city will discuss at the upcoming council meeting. UFC has been fighting to have a showcase in Vancouver for some time. **METRO VANCOUVER**

SCIENCE University of B.C. astronomer Ludovic Van Waerbeke and an international team have confirmed Einstein's theory of relativity and that the universe's expansion is accelerating. The team studied more than 446,000 galaxies and concluded that the data was consistent with Einstein's theories.

WEDDING The Barenaked Ladies will serenade two newlyweds Friday as part of Virgin Radio's "craziest wedding" promotion. The nuptials will take place at a bowling alley with the groom in a chicken outfit. The bride will walk down the aisle to Darth Vader's Imperial March. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Man convicted in 46-hour kidnap case called a sexual sadist

A psychiatrist testified Thursday that Gerard Baumgarte, who dressed up as a police officer before kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl over 46 hours, is a sexual sadist. Baumgarte, 57, was to be sentenced in Red Deer, Alta., on Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada 60

Tweet! It's Earth Hour

Earth Hour is Saturday at 8:30 p.m. What will you be doing? This week, we're sharing some tweets from Metro readers. @victorias_view: "Rocking out on my acoustic and drinking lots of wine! That's my story and I'm sticking to it!" @kieltyka24: "I plan to be rolling down a green, grassy hill and hug a beehive."

Ann Coulter hits back

CRIME Conservative Ann Coulter says she is going to file a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

She says her treatment by the University of Ottawa provoked hatred against her.

Before a speech Coulter was to have delivered at the school on Tuesday, provost Francois Houle sent her a note urging her to educate herself about Canada's hate laws.

Coulter pulled out of that appearance after 1,500 people tried to get into the venue that was already filled to capacity.

Another few hundred loudly protested her speech outside the building.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gateway Law Corporation
Kevin Lee, B.Comm (UBC), M.B.A. (York U), LL.B. & PCLL (HKU), NCA (UOttawa)

Lightfoot hit changed for historical accuracy

Gordon Lightfoot has changed the lyrics of his 1976 hit The Wreck Of The Edmund Fitzgerald.

The singer was impressed by evidence presented in the new Canadian made-for-TV documentary series Dive Detectives.

So he has removed from the song the implication that human error played a part in the 1975 Lake Superior tragedy that killed 29.

"He has already changed a line for live performances," a spokesperson said. "He was pretty impressed by what he saw in the film … evidence unsecured hatch covers didn't cause the ship to sink."

The old verse goes: "When supper time came the old cook came on deck/Saying 'Fellows it's too rough to feed ya'/At 7 p.m. a main hatchway caved in/He said, 'Fellas it's been good to know ya."

The new lyrics are: "When supper time came the old cook came on deck/Saying 'Fellows it's too rough to feed ya'/At 7 p.m. it grew dark, it was then/He said, 'Fellas it's been good to know ya.'"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Robbers are leaving their guns at home

CRIME Robbers are using fewer firearms while committing their crimes.

Firearms were used in 14 per cent of robberies in 2008, compared with 20 per cent a decade earlier, Statistics Canada reports.

StatsCan says the kinds of robberies are changing as well: Commercial robberies declined, but home invasions have increased.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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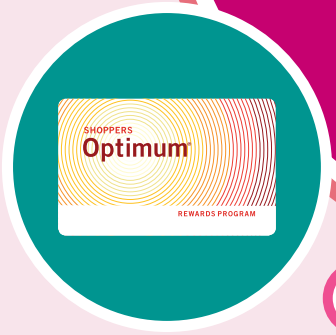

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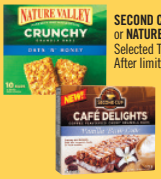

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

DJs proud as peacocks after catching missing bird

Two Edmonton radio announcers captured an exotic bird that was on the lam for days. The big brown peahen flew its coop in a residential neighbourhood on the weekend and had eluded capture attempts by wildlife officers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Alleged kidnapper has day in court

A 62-year-old man facing a series of charges in the month-long disappearance of a woman made a brief appearance in a New Brunswick courtroom on Thursday.

Romeo Jacques Cormier was arrested hours after the woman was discovered Wednesday, not far from where she was last seen leaving her job at a Moncton mall.

Romeo Jacques Cormier

He has been charged with kidnapping, unlawful confinement, assault with a weapon, sexual assault, uttering death threats and theft.

A judge has placed a publication ban on anything that would identify the alleged victim.

Cormier sat quietly as the charges were read, but nodded to the victim's family as he was led from court.

His case was adjourned until April 12.

Police have said the 54-year-old woman was held in the basement apartment of a duplex before somehow getting out and flagging down a passing driver.

She was taken to hospital to be examined, and was reunited with family Wednesday night. She had been missing since Feb. 26.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Feds stay firm on Afghan pullout date

MILITARY The federal government says it hasn't received a request from the U.S. to extend Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, and the deployment will end next year as planned.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon had a clear message for the House of Commons on Thursday: "As of 2011, we're out."

He was responding to opposition questions about a report that Washington will ask Ottawa to allocate up to 600 troops to train the Afghan army.

A Globe and Mail article said American officials have advised their Canadian counterparts that an "ask" is coming.

Cannon said he not received "a request of this nature" and that the mission "will end in 2011 as set out in the throne speech and as repeated on many occasions."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parents warned about old toys

TOYS Health Canada is warning parents and people who look after small children to get rid of a popular old toy that is no longer considered safe.

The department says Fisher-Price Little People toys made before 1991 are a choking risk for small children and should be discarded in a way that ensures they aren't re-used or resold.

The company changed the design of the popular toys in 1991 after hearing of seven deaths and one serious injury in children under three who had choked on the figurines.

The newer style is too big to descend into the throat of a young child.

Health Canada issued the warning after learning of a death of a 10-month-old child who had been playing with one of the old-style Little People toys.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Comment

Temple to misery, greed

UrbanCompass

One of the best pieces of real estate left in all Vancouver is the area along False Creek between B.C. Place and Science World.

It's in the heart of the heart of the city. For some time, it was earmarked as the new home of the Vancouver Art Gallery, but it's apparently not suitable.

It is suitable, also apparently, for a giant casino complex run by an outfit from Vegas Baby, the same people who brought you Circus Circus.

There was a time when Steve Wynn, the Donald Trump of Las Vegas, was nearly run out of town for proposing a similar deal along the Coal Harbour waterfront. But that was then, and now, apparently, we're ready for Vegas in Vancouver.

I keep using the word "apparently" because the various players are not ready for the big reveal, but they're floating so many trial balloons you'd think it was a parade.

So this is how the province is going to pay for the half-billion-dollar roof for B.C. Place? With a casino?

Do I have to say this is a really bad idea? And does it really matter what I think — or you think — for that matter, as the province and its new Vegas partner have already (apparently again) signed a deal? The city also has nothing to say about it, as it is provincial land.

It looks as if, whether we want it or not, a temple to greed and misery will be erected at the very heart of this great city of ours. If you don't believe that's what they are, I suggest you tour one of the many so-called destination casinos that already clog the Lower Mainland landscape. Watch in amazement as people, gripped by some inexplicable compulsion, furiously throw their money at the slots or the card tables, taking a break only to hoover unhealthy food at the buffet.

Is this some kind of Olympic legacy? Is this what being Fun City means? Is this what we want in the heart of False Creek?

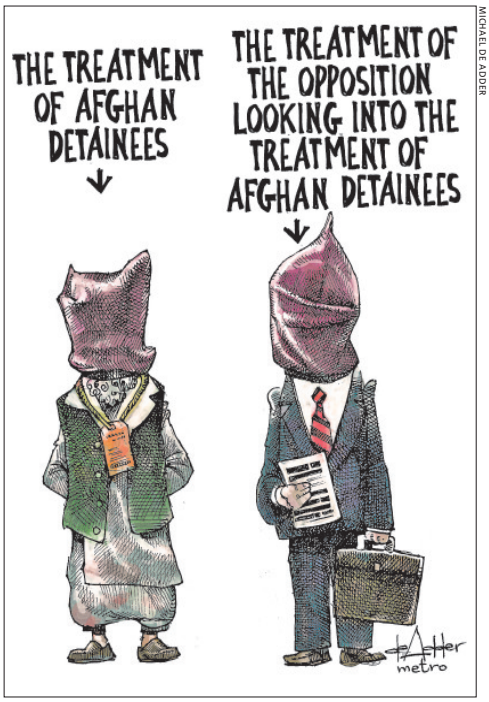
We're losing — or we've already lost — our way. We're up False Creek without a paddle.

Instead of a major cultural institution to go with Science World as the centrepiece of a magnificent public space, our potential Trafalgar Square, we'll have craps tables and overpriced fast food.

Forever. Or close to it.

Sixteen years ago, Mike Harcourt was the premier who took a stand against Vegas North. We might have to ask him to climb back on his charger because there's no one left in Victoria — apparently — who gives a damn.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

See metronews.ca for Erica Johnson's Marketplace column

Worth mentioning

Funding contraception saves lives and money, experts report

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he was looking for the best scientific advice on saving the lives of women in the developing world. Now he has some.

A leading international health organization and the UN Population Fund released a report Thursday with startling statistics about the impact of expanded access to contraception.

The Guttmacher Institute, which focuses its work on reproductive health, says meeting the world's needs for modern birth control would reduce maternal deaths by 70 per cent.

Family planning would eliminate two-thirds of unintended pregnancies and three-quarters of unsafe abortions. And the report also proposed cost savings: Spending on contraception would ultimately reduce other health costs for women and their babies — an estimated $5.1 billion annually if wealthy nations were aggressively contributing to the cause already.

Harper has remained non-committal about whether contraception fits into his new mother-and-child health initiative, and the policy being drafted for a meeting of G8 leaders this summer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Anti-Chavez TV station owner arrested
The owner of Venezuela's only television channel that remains critical of President Hugo Chavez was arrested Thursday, spurring concerns among rights activists of a widening government crackdown aimed at silencing critics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

She's got the world going Gaga

Lady Gaga has broken two records, one for video views and one for music sales. The trendsetting singer is now the only digital-era artist to top the 5 million sales mark with her first two hits, according to Yahoo Music. Gaga also reached the 1 billion mark in video views, according to Mashable, the first artist to have her videos reach 1 billion views. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Venomous atmosphere

U.S. lawmakers condemn health care-related threats

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Thursday condemned vandalism and threats against members of Congress who voted to overhaul the health-care system. Republicans joined in, telling people to calm down and saying they too were being targeted in an increasingly venomous political atmosphere.

"I don't want this to be a distraction" to the work of Congress, Pelosi said. But she also asserted that such violence and threats of reprisal have "no place in a civil debate in our country" and must be rejected.

Her sentiments were echoed minutes later by House Republican leader John Boehner, who said that while many are angry over the health care measure, "threats and violence should not be part of a political debate."

At least four Democratic offices in New York, Arizona and Kansas were struck and at least 10 members of Congress have reported some sort of threats, including obscenity-laced phone messages, congressional leaders have said. No arrests have been reported.

The House's No. 3 Republican, Eric Cantor of Virginia, said at a brief news conference Thursday that someone fired a bullet through a window of his campaign office in Richmond and he has received threatening emails.

Responding to Democrats who have accused Republicans of being too slow to condemn the attacks against lawmakers, he stressed that security threats are not a partisan issue. "To use such threats as political weapons is reprehensible," he said. The actions against Democrats have included racial slurs thrown at black lawmakers, email and phone death threats and bricks thrown through regional office windows. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scotland Yard is asking Internet café owners to poke through users' files

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Indonesia **Escaping floods**

ACHMAD IBRAHIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Villagers wade through chest-deep flood water Thursday in West Java, Indonesia. Floods inundated villages across the region after an overflowing river bursted its banks, forcing residents to evacuate.

Bin Laden makes threat in new tape

AL QAIDA Osama bin Laden threatened in a new message released Thursday to kill any Americans al-Qaida captures if the U.S. executes the self-professed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks or other al-Qaida suspects.

In the 74-second audiotape aired on Al-Jazeera television, the al-Qaida leader explicitly mentions Khalid Sheik Mohammed, who was captured in Pakistan in 2003.

He is the most senior al-Qaida operative in U.S. custody.

In 2008, the U.S. charged Mohammed with murder and war crimes in connection with the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S. Pentagon officials have said they will seek the death penalty for him. Four of his fellow plotters are also in custody. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Subway restaurants to serve breakfast in U.S.
U.S. Subways are joining the breakfast scramble and will begin selling the popular and profitable meal early next month. The new menu is already being served in some cities but will be available at almost all of the sandwich chain's 23,000 U.S. restaurants April 5. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

TV broadcasters must get creative: Analysts

Canadian television is in a state of flux as viewers continue to migrate to the Internet for programming and weak advertising sales eat into the bottom line, but new rules by the national regulator intended to help broadcasters might not be enough to slow the decline of traditional TV, some analysts say.

Broadcasters will need to get creative when it comes to content if they want to keep eyeballs glued to the TV screens, and that could mean crime dramas and situation comedies take a backseat to more live programming like sports and politics.

In the future, television viewers will likely choose to gather around the TV less for traditional programs and more for "something that captures the hearts and minds of everyone" such as sports and news events, said Iain Grant of the SeaBoard Group.

"For everything else, we'll suck it through the Internet," Grant said.

Earlier this week, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission ruled in favour of broadcasters in their dispute in the so-called fee-for-carriage, or as it's now coined the "value for signal" issue.

However, the CRTC first wants the Federal Court of Appeal to rule on the issue, which the satellite and cable companies insist will end with consumers footing the bill.

Meanwhile, Grant said the business model of using advertising to pay for television programs is broken.

"I don't think you fix the business model," said Grant, who follows Canada's media and technology marketplace. "You change the company to go where the dollars are."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The new boob tube

- Canadians are now spending more time each week on the Internet than they are watching TV, according to an Ipsos Reid poll. Overall, Canadians are now spending more than 18 hours a week online which also includes TV watching, says a poll released earlier this week. That compared with 16.9 hours watching television, the poll said.

China's 'Great Firewall' in effect

INTERNET Type "Falun Gong" in Chinese into Google's search engine from Beijing, and the web browser suddenly becomes unresponsive for about a minute. Make the same search from Hong Kong, and you'll get plenty of links to the spiritual movement banned by the Chinese government.

Internet users in mainland China and Hong Kong now share the same Google search site, but their experiences continue to widely differ, particularly on topics deemed sensitive by China's Communist leaders. The difference is that the government, rather than Google Inc., is now doing the censoring.

The findings in a recent Associated Press test offer insights into the sophistication with which China uses its complex "Great Firewall" to filter its citizens' online view of the world.

Recent searches for taboo topics from Beijing generally produced "page cannot be displayed" errors. The user's browser stops working for about a minute, longer if one tries to access forbidden sites in quick succession. In other words, it's not just the links to those sites that don't work; the results don't come back at all.

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LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

Lululemon saw a boost in branding from the Olympics based in its home city, where it had two stores placed in high traffic areas.

Lululemon adding stores

ATHLETIC WEAR Clothing retailer Lululemon Athletica Inc. plans to open 25 new stores by June, with key locations in Florida, California and Texas, in a move it hopes will help reach its goal of 25 per cent earnings growth this year.

It's all part of what the Vancouver-based chain says is an aggressive strategy in 2010 and beyond as it seeks to extend that growth target to future years as well.

The maker of trendy activewear saw profits more than double in the fourth quarter of last year due to higher-than-expected demand for its yoga and exercise wear.

Lululemon said the company's profits rose to $28.5 million US, or 40 cents per share, for the three-month period ended Jan. 31 compared to a profit of $10.9 million or 16 cents a share in the same period last year.

The results beat analyst expectations of 29 cents per share.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Railway outlook strengthening

TRANSPORT The volume of goods being transported across North America by rail is expanding, an investment bank says, but Canada's second-biggest railway is still cautious about the overall economic outlook for 2010.

Canadian carloads are 15 per cent higher so far in 2010 compared with the year-earlier period, when the recession ate away at demand for many of the products that move across the continent by rail, UBS Investment Research wrote in a note to clients Thursday.

UBS cited "notable strength" in automotive, metals, building materials, chemicals, coal and intermodal goods at Canada's two main railways, industry leader CN Rail of Montreal and No. 2 CP Rail.

Railways are often considered a bellwether for the state of the wider economy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario Weapons plant

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

London-West MP Ed Holder, middle, presents a "welcome" mat to Kongsberg president Egil Haugsdal. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, left, announced Kongsberg Defence and Aerospace's decision to open a new weapons manufacturing facility in London, Ont., Thursday. The weapon system to be produced can be mounted on light armoured vehicles, and is designed to protect soldiers inside. Canadian soldiers already use the system on their LAVs in Afghanistan.

Business in brief

BANKING TD Bank chief executive Ed Clark says some of the global rules being proposed by regulators could actually have a negative impact on the banking system. Clark told investors at the bank's annual meeting in Quebec City on Thursday that one rule would require banks to put up the same amount of capital for both high-risk and low-risk assets.

WIRELESS Rogers Communications Inc. says it's strengthening its wireless mobile coverage in northern Ontario by partnering with a regional provider based in Thunder Bay, Ont. The Toronto-based telecom giant says it's partnering with TBayTel, using the independent company's HSPA network to provide a wider variety of services to an underserviced region of the province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Halifax billboard earns kudos for outdoor execution
The "Cloudman" billboard from the Halifax Rainmen and Colour received the honour from bestadsontv.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toyota lawyer Cari Dawson leaves a federal courthouse in San Diego Thursday after a hearing on whether multiple cases will be consolidated before a single judge.

All Toyota cases under one roof?

A special panel of U.S. federal judges is being asked to consolidate before a single court dozens of proposed class-action lawsuits filed by Toyota owners who say the value of their vehicles has plummeted after millions were recalled for safety fixes.

The decision, expected in about two weeks by the U.S. Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, will set the stage for eventual trial or settlement of the roughly 100 cases filed nationwide, which could potentially cost Toyota billions of dollars in damages.

"Somebody is going to get this thing. It is going to be a ton of work," said attorney David R. Cohen of Cleveland, who has been appointed frequently as a "special master" to assist judges in similar cases.

The chosen judge will make several key decisions, including whether all Toyota owners affected by the recalls should be paid for the vehicles' lost value.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Company accountable for worker's death: Union

UNPRECEDENTED The United Steelworkers is launching a private prosecution against forestry giant Weyerhaeuser over the death of a sawmill worker, three years after B.C. Crown lawyers found there was limited chance of a negligence conviction.

The union says it has hired criminal lawyer Glen Orris to prosecute Weyerhaeuser (TSX:WYL) on its behalf in connection with the death of sawmill worker Lyle Hewer six years ago.

WorkSafeBC fined Weyerhaeuser Canada $297,000 after the 55-year-old was engulfed by wood debris as he tried to clear a jammed silo at the company's New Westminster mill on Nov. 17, 2004.

Union officials say the decision to conduct a private prosecution is unprecedented, but they believe there must be some responsibility for Hewer's death.

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Booth taken to hospital

Florida Panthers forward David Booth was taken to hospital after a shoulder hit to the head by Montreal Canadiens defenceman Jaroslav Spacek on Thursday night. Booth, who missed 45 games this season with a concussion, was crossing the Montreal blue-line with his head down when Spacek stepped into him with a shoulder. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Hughes wins spot in rotation

Phil Hughes, left, was selected Thursday as the New York Yankees' fifth starter, beating out Joba Chamberlain and three others. Hughes was happy with the decision, announced by manager Joe Girardi before the Yankees played a road game against Baltimore. Girardi said Chamberlain will be given an opportunity to pitch out of the bullpen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Men's silver medallist Patrick Chan holds up his medal during victory ceremonies Thursday in Turin, Italy.

Sterling effort earns silver

Patrick Chan has firmly put his Olympic disappointment in the past by claiming men's silver at the world figure skating championships.

The Toronto native finished with 247.22 points after Thursday's free skate, leaving him about 10 points back of Daisuke Takahashi of Japan.

"I think this is by far the most challenging season, the season I'll remember the most because I learned 80 per cent of what I have to learn in my athletic career in this one year," said Chan. "So next year will be a breeze."

Takahashi, the Olympic bronze medallist and the leader after the short program, scored 168.40 in the free skate for a total of 257.70.

Brian Joubert of France, who was third after the short program, landed two quads but fell on a triple Lutz and ended up with a total of 241.74 for bronze.

Chan, who was second after the short program, scored 159.42 points for his free skate to Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera.

His performance was a bit shaky. He fell on a triple loop and later struggled to cleanly land a triple Axel and triple Salchow.

The 19-year-old Chan also captured silver at the world championships last spring in Los Angeles, but wilted under the pressure at the Vancouver Olympics last month and had to settle for fifth in his Games debut.

"To come out of here with two silver medals in a row is just amazing," said Chan. "I hope the two silvers will add up to a gold next year."

The world championship field was missing both Olympic gold medallist Evan Lysacek of the U.S., and runner-up Evgeni Plushenko of Russia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Virtue and Moir

- Canada's Olympic gold medallists Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir are poised to capture their first world championship title.
- Virtue and Moir won the original dance segment to remain in the lead going into Friday's free dance program with 114.40 points.
- Americans Meryl Davis and Charlie White are second with 112.54, while Federica Faiella and Massimo Scali of Italy are third with 100.01.

Head-shot rule takes effect

NHL Blindside hits to the head will no longer be tolerated in the NHL.

League disciplinarian Colin Campbell has been given the power to hand out supplemental discipline for hits on unsuspecting players where the primary point of contact is the head.

It was officially handed to him Thursday when the executive board of the NHL Players' Association announced that it supported the endorsement of the five player representatives on the competition committee. The league's board of governors had already granted its unanimous support.

The rule took effect immediately.

"We believe this is the right thing to do for the game and for the safety of our players," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement. "The elimination of these types of hits should significantly reduce the number of injuries, including concussions, without adversely affecting the level of physicality in the game." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors Chris Bosh, Jose Calderon and Andrea Bargnani watch the dying seconds of their loss to the Utah Jazz Wednesday.

Raps searching for answers

STRUGGLES With the season quickly winding down and the Toronto Raptors suddenly out of answers on how to improve their on-court performance, the players may opt for a little selective amnesia.

Forgetfulness might serve the Raptors well, especially when it comes to Wednesday's 113-87 loss to the visiting Utah Jazz. The defeat dropped Toronto 1½ games back of the Charlotte Bobcats and Miami Heat, who are tied for sixth place in the Eastern Conference standings.

The score actually flattered Toronto (35-35), which struggled mightily against a Jazz team missing versatile forward Andrei Kirilenko. Utah star forward Carlos Boozer spent most of the game in foul trouble, and the Raptors still couldn't capitalize.

Thursday's practice was short and spirited, with point guard Jarrett Jack the most vocal Raptor in the post-practice huddle. He emphasized that the team needed to forget about what happened against Utah and get prepared for Friday's tilt with the Denver Nuggets (TSN2, 4 p.m. PT).

"I know everybody's looking at the loss, saying it looked bad," said Jack. "It felt even worse. But you have to have a short memory in this game, know that game's over, and focus on Denver."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Home woes

- The Raptors have lost their last two games at the Air Canada Centre by a combined 52 points.

Chan a refreshingly honest athlete

Refreshing. That's the way Patrick Chan is — refreshingly honest. And he discusses matters in such a way that he separates himself from most other elite athletes out there.

"It stinks," he said of his fifth-place finish at the Vancouver Olympics. "Then it settles in and you understand that you're not the only star here, Patrick. You're not the only one working his butt off to get somewhere."

That qualifies as an epiphany.

It seems the Olympic experience actually meant something deeper than a medal chase and an endorsement deal to Canada's top male figure skater.

This is the same skater who struggled with injury and parted with a long time coach just prior to the Games.

Chan is a gifted world championship silver medallist who once wondered aloud if he could commit another four years to the dream once Vancouver was over.

"The Olympics transform you," Chan proclaimed, his eyes the size of frying pans.

"No one can explain it to you. They are a different kind of animal. Being with so many other athletes and seeing what they are capable of … the biathletes, speedskaters and ski jumpers, well, it motivates you to go on."

So at the world figure skating championships here in Turin, Chan is plotting a course. He claims it will take him to the next Olympics in Russia in four years. He's talking about getting the highly coveted quad jump, yes, but he's also looking into a crystal ball and likes what he sees.

"There's definitely no outside pressure on me," Chan said.

"Here it's all about me. I definitely want to win and think I can."

That's the key. In spite of what unfolds in the present Chan believes he can win in the future. Something happened to him at the Olympics and it served to change his mind.

It made him full of wonder again.

"I saw that one day I could dominate," he figured.

"I saw that I could one day leave a lasting impression on my sport."

Chan is only 19 years old. His words have sometimes been misinterpreted as hastily conceived or even worse — false bravado.

Watching him closely now, one is left with a completely different impression.

He is a supremely talented kid who actually speaks the plain truth.

Gemini Award winner and author Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. A 20-year CBC Sports veteran, he has covered a variety of professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

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Sounders blank Union

Fredy Montero set up the first goal of the 2010 Major League Soccer season, then scored on a diving header that'll be tough to top all season, and the Seattle Sounders FC started their second campaign with an impressive 2-0 win over the expansion Philadelphia Union on Thursday night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 4 Florida 1
Toronto 2 Atlanta 1 (OT)
N.Y. Islanders 3 Calgary 2
Carolina 3 Washington 2 (SO)
Columbus 8 Chicago 3
Minnesota 4 Philadelphia 3 (OT)
N.Y. Rangers 4 New Jersey 3 (SO)
Tampa Bay 5 Boston 3
St. Louis 3 Los Angeles 1
Nashville 4 Phoenix 3 (SO)
San Jose 3 Dallas 0

For more scores, visit metronews.ca/sports

Premiership race down to the wire

Preparing for Chelsea's final charge toward the English Premier League title, manager Carlo Ancelotti hopes his team's confidence has been restored by a 5-0 demolition of Portsmouth.

PHIL COLE/GETTY IMAGES

Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti hopes his squad's 5-0 thumping of Portsmouth midweek will give them momentum.

While it was against the bottom-place team, Chelsea's emphatic performance on Wednesday helped to banish memories of a draw at Blackburn in the Premier League and the Champions League elimination at the hands of Inter Milan last week.

"I hope that bad period for us is finished," Ancelotti said. "We'd lost some confidence in our play in the last few weeks, but we played well (at Portsmouth). This performance will improve our confidence ... We need to maintain this period and this spirit to play."

With seven matches to go — starting on Saturday against Aston Villa — Chelsea is just a point behind defending champion Manchester United.

Aston Villa, which beat Chelsea 2-1 at home this season, is chasing a Champions League spot. Despite drawing seven of its last 10 matches, Martin O'Neill's side is just four points behind fourth-place Tottenham.

O'Neill's main concern is a trio of injuries, with Emile Heskey, Richard Dunne and James Milner all facing scans to determine the extent of their respective Achilles problems, while leading scorer Gabriel Agbonlahor is sidelined with a foot injury.

Chelsea plays ahead of Man United on Saturday and the champions could be without Wayne Rooney at Bolton. After scoring his 33rd goal of the season in Sunday's win over Liverpool, Rooney limped out of Old Trafford as he continues to struggle with knee problems.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Venus triumphs at Sony Ericsson Open

Venus Williams won her opening match at the Sony Ericsson Open by beating Sorana Cirstea 6-4, 6-3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Butler rallies to beat Syracuse

Bulldogs now one win away from reaching first Final Four

Willie Veasley glanced up while running back on defence as his three-pointer bounced high off the rim like so many of Butler's shots had before.

He paused, though, as the ball drifted back, caromed off the backboard and fell through the net — a huge bounce that helped seal the Bulldogs' 63-59 upset of top-seeded Syracuse on Thursday night in the West Regional semifinals.

Veasley followed his fortunate three with a tip-in as the Bulldogs scored 11 straight points and became the latest mid-major team to knock off a top seed in the NCAA tournament.

Now, after reaching the regional finals for the first time in school history, Butler is one win from going home to Indianapolis for the Final Four.

"I was headed down the court on defence because I figured it was going to go over the top of the backboard. But I looked back and it came down and went through," Veasley said. "That was a H-O-R-S-E shot. I've never made a shot quite like that."

GETTY IMAGES/AFP/TIM SHAFFER

Ronald Nored, left, of the Butler Bulldogs celebrates after a call against Syracuse's Andy Rautins during the west regional semifinal of the 2010 NCAA men's basketball tournament Thursday.

Veasley pumped his fist and grinned as he continued toward the other end. It was fitting that he was already headed back on defence. Instead of Syracuse's vaunted zone controlling the game, Butler's pesky man-to-man defence was the difference as the Bulldogs scrapped through poor shooting and won their 23rd straight game.

West Virginia

- Da'Sean Butler shook off a sore right hand and helped West Virginia shake off feisty Washington to reach the East Regional finals. Butler kept playing after hurting himself midway through the second half and scored 14 points, while Kevin Jones added 18 and eight rebounds in leading the second-seeded Mountaineers over the 11th-seeded Huskies 69-56 Thursday night.

"We said this word over and over in Indianapolis, and that word is 'resolve.' These guys have resolve," Butler coach Brad Stevens said.

"It's hard to measure, but they've got it."

Gordon Hayward scored 17 points and started the celebration while dribbling out the clock after the Bulldogs forced Syracuse into its 18th turnover.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With support growing quickly, Fehr favoured for NHLPA job

UNION Donald Fehr didn't come out and say he was interested in taking the vacant executive director's position with the NHL Players' Association, but it's clear a growing number of people within the game would like to see it happen.

The longtime head of the baseball players' union spoke for a couple hours at the NHL's annual agents meeting Thursday and won over a number of guys in the room.

Donald Fehr

"You don't run an association like the Major League Baseball Players' Association as long as he has without being substantive, powerful, politically correct, reasoned and very intelligent," said Pat Morris of Newport Sports. "He displayed all elements today."

Fehr has been working as an unpaid consultant for the NHLPA, assisting the union while it rewrites its constitution and tries to rebuild in the wake of a massive leadership purge. He's also assisting with the leadership search and has arguably emerged as the strongest candidate.

The 61-year-old didn't confirm or deny his potential interest in the job, saying only that he hasn't been offered the position.

"When I (left the MLBPA), I had no intention of looking for another full-time position ... If there's a change in my view, I don't think that'll be a secret to anybody," said Fehr. "Having said that, I've had an opportunity to meet and talk to and work with a number of (NHL) players ... I must say that I find them to be quite remarkable individuals. They're bright, they care, they want to try and do the right thing. I really enjoy it."

Fehr garnered a reputation as an uncompromising negotiator during his 26 years in charge of the baseball union. He oversaw five labour contracts for the players and was in charge during a seven-plus month strike in 1994-95 that forced the cancellation of the World Series.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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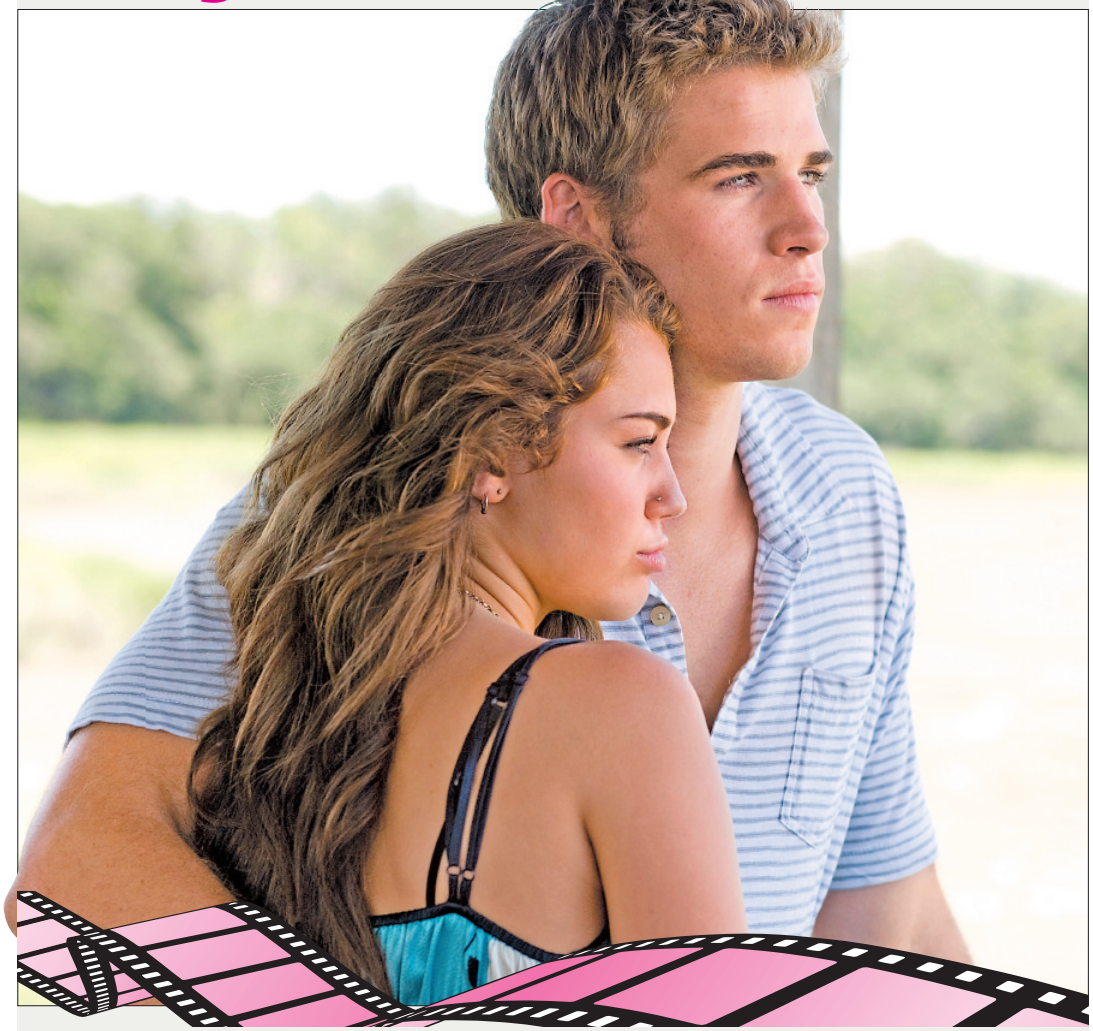
Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Young romance

Pg 22



Australia's Liam Hemsworth stars in The Last Song with on- and off-screen love interest Miley Cyrus. The actor talks romantic movie settings, career challenges and the possibility of working with Cyrus again in the near future.

Movies Pg 20

How to Train Your Dragon offers lots of 3-D action.

Music Pg 29

Barenaked Ladies album inspired by Page departure.

TV Pg 30

Jared Keeso portrays Don Cherry in two-part CBC biopic.

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At a glance
How To Train Your Dragon ⊕⊕⊕, Greenberg ⊕⊕⊕½, Hot Tub Time Machine ⊕⊕⊕½, Chloe ⊕⊕½, Mother ⊕⊕⊕⊕½

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

‘I’m a very lucky boy’

Worthington tempts Hollywood fate in Clash of The Titans

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Sam Worthington goes up against Greek gods and demons in Clash Of The Titans.

Clash of The Titans opens next Friday

On the cusp of his 30th birthday, Clash of the Titans star Sam Worthington made a fateful decision to drastically reorganize his life.

“I loved my career. I just didn’t like things about me,” Worthington, now 33, says of his life in Australia. “I woke up, looked in the mirror one day, didn’t like what I saw, so I sold the f—ing mirror. I sold everything to my friends. I had an auction at my house — had a gavel and everything. Four bucks for the TV, even sold the gavel in the end.

“It’s like that Rudyard Kipling poem. Risk it all on a pitch and toss and lose, tell no one about your loss, and you, sir, are a man,” Worthington explains. “And I thought that poem was quite inspiring. I just got in the car and drove and thought, well, something’s got to give, someone’s got to crack. And little did I know there’d be a man who could come along and change my life.”

That man, of course, was James Cameron, who cast Worthington in a little movie called Avatar. And while he hasn’t felt the need to hold another auction, the Australian actor isn’t taking things for granted.

“Every day you pinch yourself. I’m extremely humbled by the experience of what Avatar has done,” he says. “I’m a very lucky boy.”

Movie feature

When Metro spoke with Worthington before the release of Terminator Salvation, he said he was living out of two suitcases, one full of clothes and one full of books. A year later, not much has changed.

“And I’ve still got the same now. Don’t own anything,” he says. There has been one addition, though: a bicycle, which he rode to the Four Seasons this morning, past spectators waiting for the L.A. Marathon.

“Me and my mate bought a bicycle for me because he said it’s easier to get around L.A., especially the way I drive,” Worthington says, grinning. “So I ride around like the witch in The Wizard of Oz — little basket on the front. It’s pretty funny, to be honest. I’m not a very good bicycle rider, either.”

While Worthington has quickly become a household name, he insists he isn’t interested in fame.

“I’m not in this profession to be famous,” he says. “You want to be famous, you go on Big Brother. This job’s too hard. And it requires a lot of skill and a lot of passion.”

Jay Baruchel stars in How To Train Your Dragon.

How to entertain your audience in 3-D

How To Train Your Dragon

Directors: Chris Sanders, Daniel DeBlois
Stars: Jay Baruchel, Gerard Butler
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW When filmmakers Chris Sanders and Dean DeBlois set out to make How to Train Your Dragon, they insisted they wanted to “up the age” of the popular book series. Now, the question is, did they go too far?

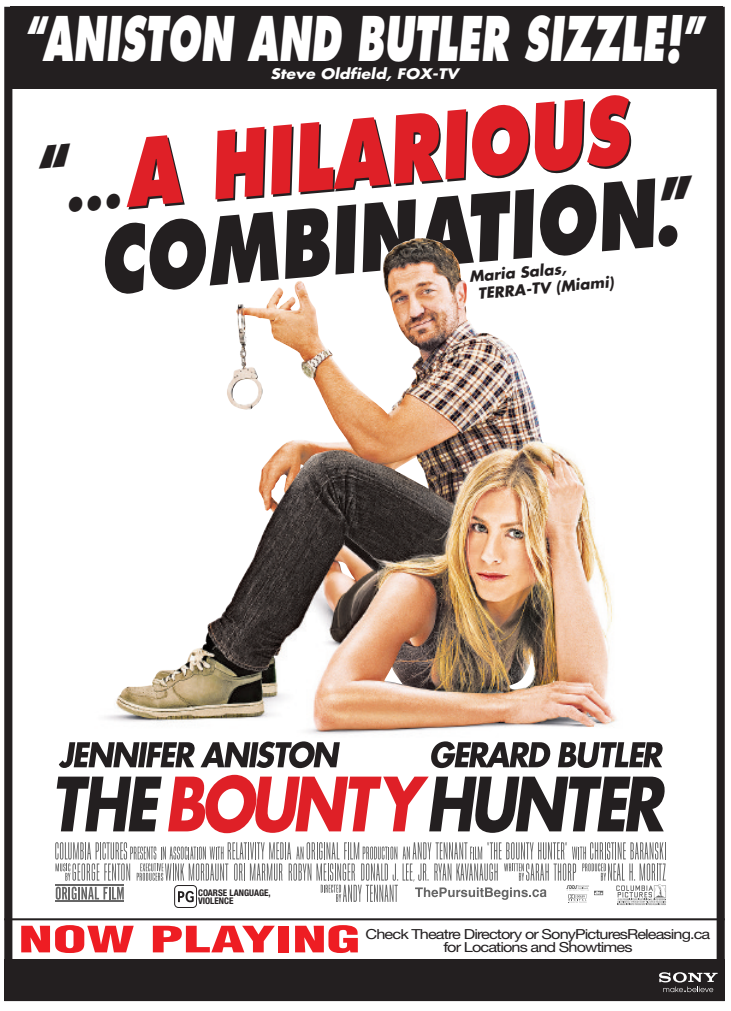
Adapted from Cressida Cowell’s children’s novels, Dragon tells a simple story about a wimpy, young Viking named Hiccup (Canuck actor Jay Baruchel) who just can’t live up to the expectations of his macho father (Gerard Butler). In fact, even when he sets out to slay a wounded dragon and gain his rightful place of honour, he instead makes a fire-breathing friend in the formidable beast.

There’s no doubt the film, with its simplistic plot and thematic familiarity, is still aimed at children, but there’s a level of detail here that is often missing in today’s family features.

For one, it begins with the animation. Meticulously crafted, Dragon’s dark themes and stunning 3-D animation of battle sequences may even perhaps be a bit frightening to the littlest of ones.

In fact, the superfluous amount of over-the-top flying sequences and overload of action upstage a fairly ordinary story. In this case, it helps — as does the fact that Vikings and dragons are still a novelty in the family genre when compared to say, ogres or pets.

• For a trailer of How To Train Your Dragon, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies



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Rene Rodriguez, The Miami Herald

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"A COMPELLING THRILLER."
Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun Times

★★★★★
"HEART-STOPPING, edge-of-your-seat THRILLS from start to finish."
Daily Mirror

the GIRL with the DRAGON TATTOO

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Knightley, Gere sign up for Baumbach project
Noah Baumbach is gathering a cast of serious names for his next project, an adaptation of Claire Messud's novel The Emperor's Children — Richard Gere, Keira Knightley and Eric Bana are all signing on for roles. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Liam in key of Miley

Aussie actor finds real love on set of Last Song

Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth share a moment in The Last Song, based on a Nicholas Sparks novel.

The Last Song opens Wednesday

ANNE BRODIE
for Metro Canada

Liam Hemsworth, a striking young Australian actor who just turned 20, is in an enviable spot these days.

He's set to star in a potential Arabian Nights franchise, appears in the romantic drama The Last Song — from the highly commercial tearjerker Nicholas Sparks, opening next Wednesday — and he's dating his co-star, Hannah Montana phenomenon Miley Cyrus. It's good to be Liam.

He's certainly a romantic. The way he describes shooting The Last Song, you have to wonder whether he's talking about Miley and himself.

"These are very real people you can relate to. When he met Miley's character, their attraction was physical but became much more. They allowed each other to be more of themselves and stop letting people stop telling them who to be. Anyone can relate. It's about a young girl growing up and really becoming true to herself."

The close quarters of moviemaking and romantic ocean side setting helped ignite their romance.

"We spent every day together shooting down there (Georgia) and we had great chemistry from the first time we met. It wasn't too much work to show that chemistry. It would have been hard not to become close there on the beach every day, it was so beautiful. We were happy together and that's the truth, we enjoyed being together."

Hemsworth is about to face his biggest challenge yet — fronting The Arabian Nights, a big-budget action film that's being positioned as a franchise. He stars as the princely commander of an army avenging the murder of their king with the help of Sinbad. However, Hemsworth isn't concerned about the weight of it.

"I don't think of anything about how it's going to be working on it. I have to focus on my part. I'm proud of my work but I don't think of myself as a rising star.

"It's weird to see yourself so big on a screen. In Hollywood, I saw them putting up a billboard of the film on an eight story building. It was huge. That's the biggest I've ever seen my face."

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Antichrist slur against Cameron a joke: Beck

U.S. TV commentator Glenn Beck has apologized — sort of — for likening James Cameron to the antichrist. Beck Wednesday claimed he was speaking in jest when he said Cameron was "running for antichrist." IMDB.COM

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Laughing with the '80s

Hot Tub Time Machine

Director: Steve Pink
Stars: John Cusack, Rob Corddry, Craig Robinson
Classification: 18A
Rating: ½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

It's back to the cheesy '80s in Steve Pink's comedy Hot Tub Time Machine.

Finally a movie that asks the question, what would happen if the overgrown fratboys of the current R-rated comedies took a trip back in time to an '80s gross-out comedy?

It's a head-scratcher that has plagued man for generations and the long-awaited answer involves booze, sex, spandex, Crispin Glover's severed arm, and good times.

As you might have guessed from the title, Hot Tub Time Machine is a stupid comedy, but fortunately it's a self-aware stupid comedy that mines laughs out of how ridiculous it all is. No movie with that title should work, but this is a surprisingly funny little crowd pleaser.

John Cusack, Rob Corddry, and Craig Robinson star as a group of middle-aged friends whose lives peaked in the '80s with a trip to a ski lodge.

After a particularly bad week involving new ex-wives, infidelity, and a suicide attempt, they decide to return to the lodge (along with a young tag played by Clark Duke), only to discover a dilapidated town offering as much promise as their unfortunate lives.

Fortunately, spilling an illegal energy drink on their hot tub (don't ask) sends them back to an '80s ski comedy complete with bad hair, cheesy music, and evil jocks obsessed with Red Dawn.

Appearing 20 to everyone else, they all have to act exactly as they did before, leading to tear-filled infidelity for Robinson, Cusack regressing into a trench-coat misfit, and Corddry stealing the movie as a hookers 'n' blow-loving alpha male.

Director Steve Pink fills nearly every frame with an homage to '80s comedy.

It wasn't exactly a time of cinematic excellence, but that's part of the joke and the aimless fun of those films is perfectly recreated.

Sure, it's all pointless and disposable, but the laughs come too quickly to notice.

It's hard to care about dramatic subtleties when you're busy laughing at a grown man projectile vomiting on a squirrel.

• For a trailer of Hot Tub Time Machine, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

Movie morsels

Alice In Wonderland

REVIEW Tim Burton was born to adapt the surrealist fantasy Alice In Wonderland. The visually inspired filmmaker is known for the twisted imagination and affection for the bizarre needed to translate Lewis Carroll's classic universe to the screen. From a technical standpoint, his film is a triumph. The eye-candy will captivate anyone watching with those new-fangled 3-D glasses. However, there's little going on to stimulate audiences beyond the visual flourishes. .

Phil Brown/For Metro Canada

The Crazies

REVIEW The Crazies deals with a cataclysmic viral outbreak that turns its hosts into blistering madmen. But the fiends in The Crazies are not dead, nor do they hunger for human flesh. The film casts always magnetic actor Timothy Olyphant as a small town sheriff who gets swept up in the traumatic events following an outbreak of a biochemical virus nicknamed "Trixie."

Chris Alexander/For Metro Canada

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Cody plays Young Adult

Diablo Cody has scored another job with the original screenplay Young Adult. The story follows a divorced thirtysomething young adult writer who heads back to her hometown in the hopes of winning back her ex-boyfriend. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Stiller shines as Greenberg

Greenberg

Director: Noah Baumbach
Stars: Ben Stiller, Rhys Ifans
Classification: 18A
Rating: ●●●½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

The title character of Noah Baumbach's Greenberg would be a lot easier to hate if he didn't have such nice friends.

The question the movie fails to answer, however, is why such nice friends keep sticking with him — or why the audience should.

Ben Stiller immerses himself in Roger Greenberg, a middle-aged lost little boy, an ornery New Yorker transplanted to Los Angeles — after a brief stint in a psychiatric ward — to housesit for his brother.

Greenberg is simultaneously hostile and fragile, raging at the world through putdowns, criticisms and complaint letters to any corporation he comes into contact with.

That the audience — and his onscreen friends — finds anything to sympathize with is a testament to Stiller's undervalued dramatic chops.

About those friends: There's his longtime buddy, Ivan (Rhys Ifans), whose once-hopeful music career was scuttled by one of Greenberg's panic attacks and who now mopes around as a struggling father and rock-and-roll could-have-been.

Ifans plays wounded and forgiving well, so much so that the endless second chances he gives Greenberg seem completely believable — especially since his lot in life is the clearest collateral from Greenberg's self-absorption.

Ben Stiller digs deep into the titular role of a middle-aged lost boy in Noah Baumbach's Greenberg.

Then there's Florence (Greta Gerwig), his brother's twentysomething assistant, reluctantly drawn to Greenberg against her better instincts.

It's Ivan and Florence's ability to tolerate Greenberg that allow him to be a real character and not just a caricature of unpleasantness.

• For a trailer of Greenberg, screen times and photos — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

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Have fancy object, will time travel

InFocus
Richard Crouse
metronews.ca/infocus

Movies are like time machines. No, they don't physically transport viewers to another time and place but, like dreams and memories, they can take the audience back to ancient Rome or forward in time to a planet populated by giant blue people. I guess that's why stories about time travel have been so popular on the big screen.

This weekend John Cusack stars in the latest time travel tale, the self explanatory Hot Tub Time Machine.

For Cusack the idea of getting stuck in the 1980s doesn't require a time machine. A star for 30 years he says all he has to do is turn on the TV to be taken back. "Every time I flip through the cable, I have flashbacks."

In the movie Cusack and his buddies head back to the '80s, a decade that one of the more famous time travel movies used as a starting point.

Everyone remembers the DeLorean time travel car from Back to the Future — chosen because its sleek futuristic look resembled a spaceship — but it wasn't until the third draft of the script that the filmmakers decided on the famous gull winged car.

Originally the time travel device was a laser, rejected because it wasn't exciting enough. Then director Robert Zemeckis considered housing the machine in a refrigerator but discarded the idea over concerns that the movie may inspire kids to crawl into iceboxes and get trapped.

In the original script for Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, in which the titular characters bring historical figures back from history to help them with a school project, the time machine was a 1969 Chevy Van, but afraid of inadvertently plagiarizing Back to the Future the filmmakers went with a phone booth instead.

"Everyone remembers the DeLorean time travel car from Back to the Future — chosen because its sleek futuristic look resembled a spaceship — but it wasn't until the third draft of the script that the filmmakers decided on the famous gull winged car."

Probably the most famous time shifting story is H.G. Wells's The Time Machine.

In the 1960 movie version director George Pal fashioned the look of the time machine on a sled (a idea borrowed years later for the hardware in Jean-Claude Van Damme's Timecop), so, he said, it could slide into the future.

Paying tribute to the story's author, he affixed a plaque on the time machine that reads "Manufactured by H. George Wells."

In 1971 when MGM sold off a warehouse of old props (including Dorothy's Ruby Slippers) the sled time machine was purchased by a collector who used it as part of a yearly Halloween display at his Burbank home.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

Angelica Huston and Danny Huston will present Hollywood Dynasty: The Hustons at the TCM film fest next month.

Film fest showcases Huston family legacy

TRIBUTE Anjelica Huston and Danny Huston will celebrate their family's film legacy at the TCM Classic Film Festival next month.

The two actors will present Hollywood Dynasty: The Hustons on April 24. The tribute will include screenings of three films and question-and-answer sessions. The festival, which is open to the public, will be held April 22-25 in Los Angeles.

Among the featured films is a recently restored version of 1948's The Treasure of the Sierra Madre, which their father John Huston wrote and directed.

"So many films get forgotten about and deteriorate, so it makes my family and myself very happy to see the kind of restoration Turner (Classic Movies) puts into these movies," Anjelica Huston, 58, said Wednesday in an interview. "It's very exciting, like a renaissance."

Huston said this is the first time that she and her brother Danny will have films in the same festival, and that having their work shown alongside their father's "makes us feel sort of dynastically active, so it's a lovely thing."

Huston said she's particularly pleased that her father's work is being preserved and can reach new audiences.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bassett joins Green Lantern
Martin Campbell has increased the cast complement of Green Lantern by one, adding Angela Bassett. She's signed on to play Dr. Amanda Blake Waller. IMDB.COM

Reel Time

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Salander hits screen

European box-office smash crosses Atlantic

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News

If the name of author Steig Larsson isn't familiar, the cover of his globally best-selling book may provide instant recognition, considering the book is reaching Harry Potter-level ubiquity.

The film adaptation follows suit, blowing box office records all over Europe for it's roundly praised, faithful rendition of the story of two detectives, of sorts, who uncover family scandals in search of a woman who has been missing for 40 years.

We sat down with director Niels Arden Oplev to chat about the film.

Q Considering The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is such a point of pride for the Swedes, were you met with resistance when, being a Danish filmmaker, you were signed on to direct?

A Since I've done really successful stuff for both movies and television, my record would I guess satisfy the directors to open up their wallet. Because they came and asked me to do this, I could put up some really tough terms. When you have something that's so popular, I would rather take the whole responsibility and then if it fails, it's my fault, my responsibility.

Q The shooting schedule ran for eight months. What was that process like?

A I had enormous goodwill from everybody, even though they thought I was half-crazy when we started shooting and I said that they should go home and say goodbye to their kids and wives and husbands because they weren't going to see them for a really long time.

Q Hollywood is planning another adaptation of Dragon Tattoo — how do you think they will change the story?

A I think it's fine to do an American remake. I would be surprised if they stick to the controversial-ness of Lisbeth's past, her problem with her legal guardian.

In our film, it takes 74 minutes before the two main characters meet.

I don't think a Hollywood producer would be able to comprehend that.

Noomi Rapace is headstrong heroine Lisbeth Salander in the film adaptation of The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo.

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Reel Time

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Town Called Panic breaks out

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

If you mention the words "Panique au village" in Brussels, chances are you'll be accosted with a bout of frenzied yelping and hoarse commands.

The television series title — A Town Called Panic, in English — has become synonymous with the exploits of Horse and his frantic flatmates Cowboy and Indian, the widely mimicked toy figurine protagonists that define the stop-motion animation shorts.

After breaking out of Belgium and into the hands of international distributors, the small town comedy is going big screen with a feature-length film directed by the show's creators Stéphane Aubier and Vincent Patar.

Feeling restricted by the five-minute mould the animation duo brought to television, Aubier and Patar used A Town Called Panic, the film, to develop a richer narrative.

The Belgian show A Town Called Panic is coming to the big screen.

"The first episodes were more like small sketches that were self-contained," said Aubier over the phone with Patar in Belgium, aided in translation by associate producer Adriana Piasek-Wanski, "As the work on the TV series moved forward, we started to work more on the narration and stories we were developing for each episode."

The storyline for the film draws on past TV episodes and follows Cowboy and Indian's attempt to build a brick barbecue as a birthday gift for Horse. But havoc comes to town when they order 50 million bricks instead of 50, launching the trio on a warp-speed journey to an underwater universe.

Speed is one of the hallmarks of A Town Called Panic, which uses jerky animation, rapid movement of figures (all 1,500 of them) and quick dialogue to propel its plot.

"We tried to slow the animation down to make it more fluid, but it just didn't seem to suit the style," said Patar, "It was too slow, soft, not dynamic enough and not energetic enough." Adds Aubier, "We always fear boring the spectator. It's important to keep the action going."

Aubier doesn't consider jarring motion to be an erroneous form of animation. On the contrary, he thinks it's elegant at times, suiting the characters and the film's comic nature.

And it's a form of comedy that seems to transcend a target audience. Using simple dialogue and exaggeration in tandem with wit adults can appreciate, Aubier and Patar said they made the film for as broad an audience as possible.

"For us, the main thing was that we were having fun and found the story funny," said Aubier, "If we were amused, chances are other people would be too."

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Amanda Seyfried, left, and Julianne Moore star in Chloe, directed by Canada's Atom Egoyan.

Master falters in Chloe

Chloe

Director: Atom Egoyan
Stars: Amanda Seyfried, Julianne Moore, Liam Neeson
Classification: 18A
Rating: ●●½

RICHARD CROUSE
for Metro Canada

Despite being a remake of a French film, the new movie from Atom Egoyan bears all the earmarks of the director's work.

Continuing his career long examination of sexual taboos and miscommunication he's made a movie that is part sexual Scheherazade, part Single White Female but is also his most straightforward movie in years.

Starring Amanda Seyfried as an escort hired by Catherine (Julianne Moore) to test her husband's (Liam Neeson) fidelity, it's a steamy thriller the director calls "an extreme examination of how to re-eroticize a marriage." Add to that a layer of sexual obsession and you get a film that feels like a throwback to the erotic thrillers of a couple of decades ago.

Egoyan has crafted a feature that breathes the same air as Fatal Attraction and Basic Instinct — films made when the director was busy making his own subtly sexual films like Exotica. At the time Roger Ebert wrote, "There is a quality in all of his work that resists the superficial and facile. Even at the very start, he wasn't interested in simple storytelling." Until now, Roger, until now.

There is no question that Egoyan is as gifted a filmmaker as we have working in this country, but Chloe, I'm afraid doesn't denote a high-water mark in his filmography.

He does, however, bring much to the table.

The film is gorgeous to look at — from the beauty shots of Toronto, to the collective "wowness" of the cast.

To match the rich visuals he's brought his own sensibility to the story, and instead of simply remaking Nathalie, the French film Chloe is based on, he has populated the plot with strong female characters. And, as befits any erotic thriller there are twists and turns galore.

Unfortunately most of them will be obvious to anyone who has ever read a Joe Eszterhas script and that is the film's Achilles' Heel.

The movie's closing moments play like a predictable B-movie, albeit a highbrow one, but a B-movie nonetheless.

Chloe marks the first time Egoyan has worked from a script that he didn't write and despite its ups — nice performances and beautiful photography — it made me yearn for the auteur of the Exotica years who would have made an uncompromising movie with a more dramatic ending.

Mother delivers on every level

Mother

Director: Bong Joon-ho
Stars: Kim Hye-ja, Won Bin
Classification: 18A
Rating: ●●●●½

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW It might seem a little premature to label a director a "master" four films into his career, but the term applies to Bong Joon-ho.

The South Korean filmmaker's new film Mother plays like an object lesson in cinematic craftsmanship. There's nary a shot out of place, nor any stray plot details that aren't eventually folded into the narrative's arc.

Mother is a cleaner piece of work than Bong's breakthrough hit The Host, and feels more similar with the director's second feature Memories of Murder (2003). In that film, the rivalry between two cops — one from the big city, one from the boonies — was an allegory for South Korea's social-cultural divisions.

Mother retains the earlier film's provincial location but focuses instead on an individual fighting against the system: a nameless, sexagenarian acupuncturist (Kim Hye-ja) roused to action when her son Do- Joon (Won Bin) is accused of a brutal murder.

That Do-Joon may actually be guilty is not a deterrent to Hye-ja's eponymous protagonist, whose ferocious devotion supersedes her (rapidly receding) rational side. Her transformation to a doddering avenging angel is funny and freaky at the same time, and in its best moments, Mother manages the Hitchockian trick of making the viewer feel like an accomplice.

Bong's command of thriller mechanics is airtight, which makes the sense of release in the final scene all the more powerful — which is not to say that he gives us any sort of happy ending.

Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAR. 26 TO THURS., APR. 1. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

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Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:55-9:15
The Ghost Writer (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7-9:35
How To Train Your Dragon 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:10-5:10-7:15-9:20
The Hurt Locker (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:10-9:45
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 1:3-5:0-6:45-9:30

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The Breakfast Club (STC) Fri 7:30
Cooking With Stella (STC) Fri 6:45-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:05-6:45-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15
The Last Station (14A) Fri 6:55-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:35-4:20-6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:20-8
A Prophet (18A) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:25-8 Mon-Thu 7
A Single Man (PG) Fri 9:45 Sat 1:40-4:10-7:05-9:45 Sun 1:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:20
Up in the Air (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:15-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:10
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:05
The Wolfman (18A) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:50-7-9:50 Mon-Wed 5:50-8:30
WWE: Wrestlemania XXVI 2010 (STC) Sun 4

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
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Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) Fri 9:50 Sat-Sun 3:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 9:50
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
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Clash of the Titans (STC) DTS Digital, No Passes Thu 8-10:20
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) DTS Digital Fri 6:45-9 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 2-4:30-6:45-9 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5-7:45
How To Train Your Dragon (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-8
She's Out of My League (14A) DTS Digital Fri 7:15-9:45 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:45-4:15-7:15-9:45 DTS Digital Mon-Wed 5:10-8:15 DTS Digital Thu 5:10

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Best of Ottawa 2009: Award Winning Films From the Ottawa International Animation Festival (STC) Thu 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue-Wed
Police, Adjective (G) Fri-Sat 7-9:10
Song o' My Heart (STC) Sun 7:15 Mon 8:30
A Town Called Panic (G) Thu 8:40
Vitaphone Varieties: 1927-1931 (STC) Sun 5
Young America (STC) Sun 9 Mon 7

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri 4-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:30

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

Chloe (18A) Fri 4-7-9 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9 Mon-Thu 4-7-9

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Drag Me to Hell (14A) Fri
The Evil Dead (STC) Fri 12
The Runaways (STC) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation (STC) Thu 11:30

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 11:15-12:45-1:50-3:45-4:35-6:45-7:40-9:45-10:30 Mon-Tue 12:45-1:50-3:45-4:35-6:45-7:40-9:45-10:30 Wed 12:45-1:50-3:45-4:35-7:40-9:45-10:30 Thu 12:45-1:05-3:45-4-6:45-10:30
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 11:45-3:20-6:50-10:25 Sat 3:20-6:50-10:25 Sun-Wed 11:45-3:20-6:50-10:25 Thu 11:45-3:20-10:25
The Black Eyed Peas: The E.N.D. World Tour Live (STC) Tue 7:30
Clash of the Titans 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 8-10:55
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:30-4-7-7:30-10-10:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Hamlet (STC) Sat 10
Repo Men (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:50-10:50
The Runaways (STC) Fri-Thu 12:40-4:10-7:15-10:10
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri-Mon 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:15 Tue 1:15-4:15 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:15
Shutter Island (14A) Fri 12-4:05-7:35-10:45 Sat 4:05-7:35-10:45 Sun-Thu 12-4:05-7:35-10:45

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

The Bounty Hunter (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:05-2:10-3:40-5-6:20-7:40-9:05-10:20
Chloe (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:35-4:55-7:25-9:50
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:05-9:25
The Ghost Writer (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:30-7:20-10:25
Green Zone (14A) Fri-Thu 2:05-4:50-7:30-10:15
Greenberg (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:35-2:40-4:10-5:20-6:50-7:55-9:30-10:30
How To Train Your Dragon (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:10 No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4-6:30-9
The Last Song (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:40-4:20-7-9:40
Mother (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-4:15-7:10-10:05 No Passes Mon 1:20-4:15-10:05 No Passes Tue 1:20-4:15-7:10-10:05 No Passes Wed 1:20-4:15-10:05 No Passes Thu 1:20-4:15-7:10-10:05
Remember Me (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-7-9:40 No Passes Mon 1:40-7-9:40 No Passes Tue 1:40-4:20-7-9:40

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film
vifc.org

Do Not Adjust Your Set: CBC Vancouver TV 1960 (STC) Sun 1:30-4:30
Mid-August Lunch (G) Fri 6:30 Mon-Tue 6:30
Neil Young Trunk Show (STC) Fri 8 Sun 7 Mon-Tue 8 Thu 6:30-8:15
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sat Wed

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

Brooklyn's Finest (18A) Fri-Wed 7-9:30 Thu 7
Clash of the Titans (STC) Thu 10:12

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri 7:05-10 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:05-10 Mon-Thu 7:05-10
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri 7:35-10:10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7:35-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:35-10:10
Clash of the Titans (STC) No Passes Thu 9:45
The Ghost Writer (PG) Fri 6:55-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:55-9:55 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:55
How To Train Your Dragon (G) No Passes Fri 6:45-7:20-9:20-9:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-1:45-3:40-4:30-6:45-7:20-9:20-9:45 No Passes Mon-Wed 6:45-7:20-9:20-9:45 No Passes Thu 6:45-7:20-9:20
Shutter Island (14A) Fri 6:30-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:30-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:35

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 6:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:3:10-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:45
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:10-2:25-4:40-7-9:30 Mon-Tue 7-9:30 Wed-Thu 7-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Green Zone (14A) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat 3:20-6:50-9:20 Sun 12:20-3:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Tue 6:50-9:20 Wed-Thu 7:20
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-7:20-10 Mon-Tue 7:20-10 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:50
The Last Song (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 6:50-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Hamlet (STC) Sat 10
Repo Men (18A) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:10-9:50 Mon-Tue 7:10-9:50 Wed-Thu 10
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri 6:40-9:05 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:05 Mon-Tue 6:40-9:05 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:10

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-4:20-7-9:35 Sun 12:40-4:20-7 Mon-Wed 4:20-7 Thu 4:20-7-9:35
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Sat 12:35-4:25-7:10-9:55 Sun 12:35-4:25-7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:10-9:55
Clash of the Titans (STC) Thu 8-10
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri 5-7-9 Sat 1-3-5-7-9 Sun 1-3-5-7-9 Mon-Wed 5-7-9
How To Train Your Dragon (G) Fri 5-7-9 Sat-Sun 1-3-5-7-9 Mon-Thu 5-7-9
Remember Me (STC) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:50 Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:50
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Sat 12:10-3:30-7-10:20 Sun 12:10-3:30-7-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:30-7-10:20
The Wolfman (18A) Fri-Sat 12:50-3:50-7:20-10:10 Sun 12:50-3:50-7:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:20-10:10

SILVERCITY RICHMOND
8351 Ackroyd Road, 604-448-1010

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:50 Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:50
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 12:20-4:00-7:30-10:50 Sun 12:20-4:00-7:30-10:50 Mon-Thu 4:00-7:30-10:50
Avatar (14A) Fri-Sat 1:00-4:30-8:00 Sun 1:00-4:30-8:00 Mon-Thu 4:30-8:00
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-3:20-5:50-8:20-10:40 Sun 12:50-3:20-5:50-8:20-10:40 Mon-Thu 3:20-5:50-8:20-10:40
Clash of the Titans (STC) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:45 Sun 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:45 Mon-Thu 3:10-5:40-8:10-10:45
Cooking With Stella (STC) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:25-9:25
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri-Wed 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:30-10:10 Thu 4:45-7:30-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Ghost Writer (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:45-7:20-10:30
Green Zone (14A) Fri-Thu 11:35-3:10-6:40-9:55
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:15-10 Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:45-10:35
How To Train Your Dragon (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-2-4:45-7:30-10:15
How To Train Your Dragon: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:15-1:45-4:30-7:15-9:45
Jawani Zindabad (PG) Fri 12:05-4:10-8 Sat 4:10-8 Sun-Thu 12:05-4:10-8
The Last Song (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:55-3:20-7:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Hamlet (STC) Sat 10
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 11:55-3:20-6:35-9:40 Sat 3:20-10:35 Sun 11:55-9:40 Mon 11:55-3:20-6:35-9:40 Tue 11:55-3:20
Repo Men (18A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:05-10:05
The Runaways (STC) Fri-Thu 11:50-3:05-6:30-9:30
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:25-10:20
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:50-10:25
UFC 111: St-Pierre vs. Hardy (STC) No Passes Sat 7
WWE: Wrestlemania XXVI 2010 (STC) Sun 4

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Clash of the Titans (STC) Thu 8-10
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri 5-7-9 Sat 1-7-9 Sun 1-3-5-7-9 Mon-Wed 5-7-9
How To Train Your Dragon (G) Fri 5-7-9 Sat-Sun 1-3-5-7-9 Mon-Thu 5-7-9

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

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Cop Out (14A) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20 Mon-Wed 4:20-7:20 Thu 4:20-7:20-10:20
The Crazies (18A) Fri 4:30-7:30-10:30 Sat 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30 Mon-Wed 4:30-7:30 Thu 4:30-7:30-10:30
Green Zone (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10-10:10 Sat 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10 Mon-Wed 4:10-7:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-10:10
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 4:05-7:05-10:05 Sat 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05 Mon-Wed 4:05-7:05 Thu 4:05-7:05-10:05
Remember Me (STC) Fri 4:15-7:15-10:15 Sat 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15 Mon-Wed 4:15-7:15 Thu 4:15-7:15-10:15
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 4-7:10 Sat 1-4-7:10 Sun 1-4-7 Mon-Wed 4-7 Thu 4-7:10
The Wolfman (18A) Fri 4:25-7:25-10:25 Sat 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:25 Mon-Wed 4:25-7:25 Thu 4:25-7:25-10:25

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Sat 12:15-3-6:45-9:30 Sun 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 12:15-3-6:45-9:30
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:35-2:15-4:55-7:55-10:40
Avatar (14A) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-10:05
The Black Eyed Peas: The E.N.D. World Tour Live (STC) Tue 7:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 11:40-3:10-6:50-10
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 12-4-7:45-10:25
Brooklyn's Finest (18A) Fri 11:50-3:50-7:15-10:20 Sat 3:50-10:20 Sun 11:50-10:20 Mon 11:50-3:50-7:15-10:20 Tue 11:50-3:50
Clash of the Titans 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 8
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:30-7:35-10:35
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:30-10:05
The Ghost Writer (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:55-7:05-10 Thu 12:30-3:55-7:05-10:05
Green Zone (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-7:30-10:35
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 12:10-12:35-3:20-4:05-7:7-40-9:45-10:45
How To Train Your Dragon (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:30-2:05-4:40-7:15-9:55 No Passes Wed 4:40-7:15-9:55 No Passes Thu 11:30-2:05-4:40-7:15-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
How To Train Your Dragon 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10:15
The Last Song (G) No Passes Wed 3:50-7:15-10:20 No Passes Thu 12:55-3:50-7:15-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Hamlet (STC) Sat 10
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:45-6:55-9:50 Sun 12:35-3:45-6:55-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:20-3:45-6:55-9:50
Remember Me (STC) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-7-9:50
Repo Men (18A) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:35-7:25-10:40
The Runaways (STC) Fri-Thu 11:55-3:05-6:40-10:10
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri-Thu 11:35-3:25-7:20-10:10
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:30-7:10-10:30
UFC 111: St-Pierre vs. Hardy (STC) No Passes Sat 7
WWE: Wrestlemania XXVI 2010 (STC) Sun 4

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

How To Train Your Dragon (G) Fri 7-9 Sat 1-7-9 Sun 1-7 Mon-Thu 7

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Sat-Sun 12
Avatar (14A) Fri 5:20-8:30 Sat-Sun 2-5:20-8:30 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:30
The Hurt Locker (14A) Fri 9:10 Sat-Sun 12-9:10 Mon-Thu 9:10
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 4:30-6:45 Sat-Sun 12-2:15-4:30-6:45 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:45
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Thu 7
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 5 Sat-Sun 2:45-5 Mon-Thu 5
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri-Thu 9

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Wed 1-4-7-9:50 Thu 11:40-2:20-5-7:45-10:40
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 11:40-2:20-5-7:45-10:40 Thu 1-4-7
The Black Eyed Peas: The E.N.D. World Tour Live (STC) Tue 7:30
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:15
Clash of the Titans 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri-Tue 11:50-2:10-4:50-7:15-9:40 Wed 4:50-7:15-9:40 Thu 11:50-2:10-4:50-7:15-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Green Zone (14A) Fri-Thu 10:30
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:20-8:10-45
How To Train Your Dragon (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-10-7:50
How To Train Your Dragon 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-2-4:40-7:20-10
Jawani Zindabad (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-7:10-10:25
Lad Gaya Pecha (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-4:05-7:05-10:10
The Last Song (G) No Passes Wed 3:30-6:50-9:45 No Passes Thu 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Repo Men (18A) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:45-7:40-10:20 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:45-7:40
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri-Mon 12:40-3:50-6:40-9:30 Tue 12:40-3:50-6:40 Wed-Thu 12:40-3:50-6:40-9:30
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Sat 12:25-3:30-6:50-10:05 Sun 12:25-3:30-6:50-10:05 Tue 12:25-3:30-10:05 Wed-Thu 10:05
WWE: Wrestlemania XXVI 2010 (STC) Sun 4

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:9:40
Avatar (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:55-7:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 1:55-7:05
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50-6:45-9:30
Clash of the Titans (STC) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 9:45
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-6:55-9:25
Green Zone (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:05
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:30-10:15
How To Train Your Dragon 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 1:30-2:15-4-4:45-6:30-7:15-9-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12-1:30-2:15-4-4:45-6:30-7:15-9-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 1:30-2:15-4-4:45-6:30-7:15-9-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30-2:15-4-4:45-6:30-7:15-9
Lad Gaya Pecha (STC) Fri 1-3:55-6:50-10 Sat 1-3:55-6:50-10 Sun 1-3:55-6:50-10 Mon 1-3:35-6:50-10 Tue 1-3:55-6:50-10 Wed-Thu 1-3:55-6:50-10
The Last Song (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:25-4:05-7:05-9:55
Repo Men (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:25-10:10
She's Out of My League (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:10-9:55
Shutter Island (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-6:40-9:50
WWE: Wrestlemania XXVI 2010 (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 4

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criterionttheatres.com

The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri 7-9:10 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 7-9:10
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri 7:10-9:05 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:05 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:05

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterionttheatres.com

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri 7:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:10-7:30-9:30 Mon-Wed 7:30-9:30
Clash of the Titans (STC) Thu 8-10:15
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri 7:10-9:05 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:30-7:10-9:05 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:05
Green Zone (14A) Fri 7:20-9:35 Sat-Sun 2-7:20-9:35 Mon-Tue 7:20-9:35
How To Train Your Dragon (G) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:20-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9
The Last Song (G) Wed-Thu 7:20-9:20

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-3:30-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:40-9:40
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-4-7:15-10:05 Mon-Thu 4-7:15-10:05
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 11:30-3:15-7:05-10:40 Mon-Wed 3:15-7:05-10:40 Thu 3
The Black Eyed Peas: The E.N.D. World Tour Live (STC) Tue 7:30
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:45-7:15-10:10 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:15-10:10
Clash of the Titans 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 8-10:50
Cop Out (14A) Fri 12:10-3:40-7:10-10:10 Sat 3:40-10:10 Sun 12:10-10:10 Mon 3:40-7:10-10:10 Tue 3:40
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Sun 11:55-3:25-6:55-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:25-6:55-9:45
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri-Sun 11:35-2:10-4:50-7:35-10 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:35-10
The Ghost Writer (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:50-9:55 Mon-Tue 3:20-6:50-9:55 Wed 6:50-9:55 Thu 3:20-6:50-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Green Zone (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:20-7:35-10:35 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:35-10:35
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri 1:05-1:35-4:05-4:35-7:7-30-9:50-10:20 Sat 1:05-1:20-3:30-4:05-7:7-30-9:50-10:45 Sun 1:05-1:35-4:05-4:35-7:7-30-9:50-10:20 Mon 4:05-4:35-7:7-30-9:45-10:20 Tue-Thu 4:05-4:35-7:7-30-9:50-10:20
How To Train Your Dragon (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-3:50-6:45-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:50-6:45-9:30
How To Train Your Dragon 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5:10-7:45-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:15-6:15-9
How To Train Your Dragon: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-2-4:40-7:15-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:40-7:15-10
The Last Song (G) No Passes Wed 7:10-10:10 No Passes Thu 3:40-7:10-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 3
The Metropolitan Opera: Hamlet (STC) Sat 10
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-4:10 Mon-Thu 4:10
Remember Me (STC) Fri-Thu 7:30-10:25
Repo Men (18A) Fri-Sun 12:45-4:25-7:40-10:45 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:40-10:45
The Runaways (STC) Fri-Sun 12:55-4:15-7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:20-10:15
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:55-7:25-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:25-10:15
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Sun 11:50-3:35-7:10-10:25 Mon-Thu 3:35-7:10-10:25
UFC 111: St-Pierre vs. Hardy (STC) No Passes Sat 7
WWE: Wrestlemania XXVI 2010 (STC) Sun 4

TWILIGHT DRIVE-IN
260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley, 604-856-5063

Clash of the Titans (STC) Thu 10:15
Green Zone (14A) Fri-Sun 7:45
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Wed
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Thu 12:30
Valentine's Day (PG) Thu 8
The Wolfman (18A) Fri-Sun 10

Top albums on the Billboard 200

1. Need You Now, Lady Antebellum; 2. Here I Am, Marvin Sapp; 3. Battle of the Sexes, Ludacris; 4. The Edge, Various Artists; 5. The Fame, Lady Gaga. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Here comes the sun

Melissa Auf der Maur, Hole, MGMT highlight spring releases

SoundCheck

Congratulations by MGMT is out April 13, while Nobody's Daughter, the first album from Hole since 2009, is out April 27.

Now that we've left winter behind — technically, anyway — it's time to start looking ahead to some of the spring's big rock releases. Sadly, though, there aren't a lot of them.

Pop still rules the music cycle and many major bands are either coming to the end of their release-and-touring schedule (Nickelback, Kings of Leon, Coldplay, Green Day) while others have gone to ground completely (Nine Inch Nails comes to mind).

This, however, offers bands with new releases a path of lesser resistance. Here are some highlights.

Plastic Beach, Gorillaz (Out now): The cartoon band created by Damon Albarn (Blur) and Jamie Hewlett (the comic book artist behind Tank Girl) is back with a third album said to have been recorded on an island made of floating trash somewhere in the Pacific. EMI is praying that it does as well as the last two albums which sold a combined total of 14 million copies.

Out of Our Minds, Melissa Auf der Maur (March 30): After an eternity in Record Contract Purgatory, MAdM — ex-Hole and ex-Smashing Pumpkins — is finally ready to reveal an extremely ambitious and solo project that involves music (in both digital and physical forms), film, photography, a comic and live performances. As she told me, "I wanted to offer an artistic experience with multiple points of entry."

Congratulations, MGMT (April 13): Faced with having to follow up Oracular Spectacular with something, er, equally spectacular, MGMT elected to veer off into a completely different direction, creating a record that's meant to be consumed as a hole rather than in bite-sized chunks of singles. Bold.

Red Light Fever, Taylor Hawkins and the Coattail Riders (April 20): While his boss is off playing with Them Crooked Vultures (among others), Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins leads a band through a record filled with '70s-inspired power pop. Guests include Brian May and Roger Dean of Queen, Elliot Easton of the Cars and, of course, Dave Grohl.

Nobody's Daughter, Hole (April 27): She's baaacck! Courtney Love is finally ready with a Hole album, the first since 1998's Celebrity Skin. Although she's the only original member of Hole in the band, what I've heard so far sounds pretty solid. Skinny Little B— has done quite well as the first single. Listen for a Billy Corgan co-write called Samantha very soon.

And there's more. News on U2, Deftones and STP next week.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Barenaked Ladies learn to regroup

The Barenaked Ladies' first single following the high-profile exit of Steven Page was an anguished tune called You Run Away, featuring frontman Ed Robertson singing about a fleeing friend and a broken brotherhood.

All In Good Time is the first new album from the Barenaked Ladies without Steven Page.

And Robertson isn't being coy about the subject matter. If You Run Away sounds like it was inspired by the departure of founding member Page — sample lyric: "I tried to be your brother/ You cried and ran for cover/ I made a mess, who doesn't?" — that's because it was.

"It was absolutely inspired by some of that relationship," Robertson said.

"But it's not totally about him, you know. There are lots of moments on the record that come from dealing with that relationship. I worked with the guy for 20 years and I knew him for 15 years before that. It's a huge relationship in my life.

"That parting is like a marriage breakup. There was a lot, emotionally, to sort through."

That's been the theme of the past few years for a band that's gone through more than just the loss of one of its signature voices.

The Barenaked Ladies, whose public image has always centred on the sort of high-energy, goofy good disposition required by children's television hosts, endured a tumultuous period fraught with private and public disappointments.

Robertson's mother died and he crashed a small float plane near Algonquin Park. Then there was Page's drug arrest and the '09 announcement that he was leaving the band.

Those involved at the time said that scheduling had become a headache for the band, and Page said he wanted to pursue solo opportunities. The parting was said to be amicable.

Robertson says he and Page haven't been communicating much since the departure. But he insists he didn't intend to offend Page with the song.

"It's just a song. And it's not to him, for him, or about him. It certainly draws from that relationship but I don't do low blows." THE CANADIAN PRESS

TLC picks up Palin's Alaska show

Sarah Palin's Alaska, an eight-part documentary "about the remarkable Governor Palin and her home state of Alaska," will air on the TLC network, Discovery announced Thursday morning. The network was careful to describe it not as a reality show, but rather a travelogue. POPEATER.COM

Television

Biopic gets to the Cherry centre

Two-part CBC show will examine the life one of Canada's most outspoken personalities

The Don Cherry that most Canadians know is the outsized personality from Coach's Corner, the vociferous hockey icon who favours hard hits and flamboyant threads.

And Cherry is fine with that. It's revealing the other side of his life, as he will in the upcoming two-part CBC-TV biopic Keep Your Head Up, Kid: The Don Cherry Story, that worries him.

"Tell you the truth, that's one of the reasons I didn't want to do the movie," Cherry told The Canadian Press in an interview at CBC headquarters Wednesday.

Keep Your Head Up, Kid airs Sunday & Monday, 8 p.m. on CBC

"People like myself don't want to have it laid out there for people to see and criticize. ... That's why I really, for four years, I wouldn't do the movie. Nobody likes to see their personal life put out to everybody."

But Cherry, 76, eventually gave the film the go-ahead because it was his son, Tim, who wrote the screenplay and wanted his father's story to make it to the screen.

Keep Your Head Up, Kid follows Cherry through his childhood, his tumultuous minor-league playing career, his (tumultuous again) stint as a head coach in the AHL and NHL and his transition into broadcasting with the CBC, where he's been since 1980.

Jared Keeso of Listowel, Ont., plays Cherry from his hockey-playing days through the decades that followed with the aid of makeup, prosthetics and a wig, while Sarah Manninen portrays Cherry's late wife, Rose.

Cherry hasn't seen the film yet. He says he'll want to be alone when he watches it on Sunday and Monday — although he'll have company from his beloved bull terrier.

"I'm gonna be watching it in my basement with Blue and my goldfish," Cherry said. "I feel like I should do that because I don't know how I'm going to accept it, and I don't want anybody around."

Much of the film might be tough to take for Cherry, who has read the script.

He says Manninen bears an uncanny resemblance to the real Rose, who died in 1997. And he says that revisiting his own life story has made him realize how selfish he had been, putting his career ahead of his family.

Indeed, the film doesn't gloss over Cherry's missteps.

Cherry — a reliably outspoken proponent of hard-nosed hockey — was exactly the sort of player you'd expect: a tough-guy defenceman, a gritty sort whose mentality and skillset was enough to earn him a career in hockey, but not at the level he wanted.

He played only one NHL game, instead spending years ricocheting around the minor leagues — with stops in Windsor, Ont., Barrie, Ont., Hershey, Pa., Springfield, Mass., Boston, Trois-Rivieres, Que., Waterloo, Ont., Sudbury, Ont., Spokane, Wash., Tulsa, Ok., Rochester, N.Y., and Vancouver — uprooting his young family at every turn. All told, he says they moved 53 times.

In the film, Rose shows infinite patience with her husband. She's supportive even as the stubborn on-screen Cherry chooses to work painting houses rather than sacrifice his pride in search of another job in hockey.

She fails to offer even token protestations each time she's forced to pack up for another town as Cherry chases on-ice glory.

And, Keeso's narration tells us, she bears the burden of taking care of young Tim when he's diagnosed with a serious kidney problem.

"I couldn't stand to see Timothy on that machine, knowing he was in pain ... I left it all for Rose to handle," Keeso's Cherry says in the film.

"I know, I was a coward."

Tim Cherry said people who read the script were surprised that his father approved of it. But, the younger Cherry says, it's an accurate depiction of what happened.

"He didn't really think about the consequences of his actions," Tim said. "That's maybe one of the themes to the movie.

"But dad said you have to show it, warts and all, or (the movie)'s going to be horrible."

The film also covers the many feuds Don Cherry has ignited with his various bosses, with a particular focus on his toxic relationship with Harry Sinden, who was general manager of the Boston Bruins when Cherry won the Jack Norris Trophy as the team's coach.

"I've always had that problem, everywhere I've been, with authority," the real-life Cherry conceded Wednesday.

"Even with CBC, it seems, when they called me despicable and reprehensible a few years ago. I have a problem with authority, I guess. Some guys have it in different ways but that's the way with me. But I've paid the price many times."

CBC TELEVISION

Jared Keeso plays Don Cherry in the CBC biopic Keep Your Head Up, Kid: The Don Cherry Story. It airs Sunday and Monday nights.

The film ends just as Cherry begins his time with CBC, and thus doesn't show his evolution into the most controversial voice in hockey.

But his son says that side of Cherry — the divisive, opinionated commentator who has touched off debate after debate — has long been there too, whether on camera or off.

"People say: 'Oh, it's a shtick.' Not really — just at home he doesn't dress as nice, and he's not quite as loud," Tim Cherry said with a laugh.

"You see that persona quite a bit coming up. ... He's pretty genuine. I don't think you can go 30 years now and take a lot of the slings and arrows he's taken doing a shtick."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Academy to continue doing honourary Oscars separately

CEREMONY The film academy is continuing its new tradition of presenting honorary Oscars at an untelevised ceremony months before the Academy Awards.

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president Tom Sherak says the second annual Governors Awards will be held Nov. 13. The private dinner event will be produced by past academy president Sid Ganis, Sherak said.

"In its first year, it turned out to be a really great evening," Ganis said Wednesday. "It was the sweetest, most personal way for the academy to bring extra special recognition to those artists and their lifetime accomplishments.

"It was relaxed, it was of course not televised, and it was super star-studded. My job is going to be to at least duplicate what happened in that first year."

"We'll keep making it something extraordinary, and we'll make sure that it has its proper moments on the big show."
Sid Ganis, past academy president

Some of the academy's highest honours, including the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award and the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award, may be presented at the event. The board of governors will meet in August to determine the 2010 honorees.

Lauren Bacall, Roger Corman and Gordon Willis received honorary Oscars and John Calley was presented with the Thalberg award at the inaugural Governors Awards last year.

"It's still brand new, and it's something that I'm almost positive will be around for a long, long time," Ganis said. "We'll keep making it something extraordinary, and we'll make sure that it has its proper moments on the big show."

Ganis, who served four years as academy president before Sherak took office in August, said he's excited to help pay tribute to some of the legends in entertainment.

"This is about my heroes," he said. "These men and women put out a lot of good, and for me to be a part of honouring them is pretty cool."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Television

Nickelodeon honours Obama

First lady Michelle Obama is getting attention from the Nickelodeon kids' television network — and it has nothing to do with green slime.

Nickelodeon said Thursday it will honour Mrs. Obama with its Big Help award at the Kids' Choice Awards. She has taped a message for Saturday's show.

She is being honoured for her Let's Move campaign to help cut down on childhood obesity.

Nick has been working with Mrs. Obama on the campaign. It has donated $3 million to school and after-school programs to create opportunities for physical play. Nickelodeon executive Marva Smalls says that with Mrs. Obama's activity, forces are aligning not just to place blame but to move forward.

Not being present means the first lady will avoid being doused with slime, which Nick frequently does as a prank to people involved in its show. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michelle Obama, pictured right, is set to receive Nickelodeon's Big Help Award.

FRIDAY 3/26/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	Medium "Who's That Girl"		Criminal Minds (N) (CC)		The Bridge (N)		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	X-Weighted "Kyla" (CC)		Shark Tank (CC)		NUMB3RS "Hangman"		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model		Jamie Oliver's Food		Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Murdoch Mysteries		Who Do You Think You Are?		Murdoch Mysteries		Mercy (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	America's Next Top Model		Fly Girls	High Society	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	College Basketball NCAA Tournament -- Purdue vs. Duke.				News	Judge Judy	The Insider	Entertainment	KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Who Do You Think You Are?		Dateline NBC (CC)				KING 5 News
	288	380	24 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Jamie Oliver's Food		Jamie Oliver's Food		20/20 (N) (CC)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	House "Moving the Chains"		Kitchen Nightmares (N)		News	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	23 NW	Love, Hate and Propaganda		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Love, Hate and Propaganda		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Billiards World Cup of Pool.		Hockey	UFC	UFC	UFC	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	Curling 2010 World Women's Championship, Playoff: Canada vs. TBA. (Live)						SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		F1 Racing
family	552	543	25 YTV	A Cinderella Story ★★ (2004) Hilary Duff. (CC)				Things I Hate	That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Johnny Test	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars	Futurama	King of Hill	Ghostbusters II ★★ (1989) Bill Murray.		
	268	354	5 KNO	Tatshenshini-Alsek Park		Poirot (CC)		Dalziel and Pascoe (CC)		Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey ★★★		
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	CMT's Greatest "Interviews"		Funniest Home Videos		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Jim
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal Minds "Plain Sight"		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	Top Yam: La. Pageant		What Not to Wear "Vikki"		Top Yam: La. Pageant		What Not to Wear "Kandiss"		Weddings
	616	522	33 SHO	Relic Hunter (CC)		NYC: Tornado Terror (2008) Nicole de Boer. (CC)				Pure Pwnage	Kenny vs.	Trailer Park
	294	650	37 TBS	The Bourne Supremacy		(:10) Into the Blue ★★ (2005, Adventure) Paul Walker, Jessica Alba. (CC)				Into the Blue 2: The Reef		
	603	561	32 FN	Diners, Drive	Diners	Ramsay's Kitchen		Diners	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners, Drive
	-	-	35 AMC	(5:00) The Devil's Brigade		Shootout	The Untouchables ★★★★ (1987) Kevin Costner, Sean Connery. (CC)					Sabretooth
	320	621	30 CEN	(6:30) Harriet the Spy ★★		Dance Flick ★★ (2009) Shoshana Bush.			RocknRolla ★★ (2008) Gerard Butler, Tom Wilkinson. (CC)			
	581	566	101 MTV	16 and Pregnant (CC)		1 girl 5 gays	MTV Live	Spring Break Challenges		16 and Pregnant (CC)		1 girl 5 gays

SATURDAY 3/27/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey Vancouver Canucks at San Jose Sharks. (Subject to Blackout)					HNIC: After Hours		News	HNIC Replay
	250	321	9 CTV	W5 (N) (CC) (DVS)		Flashpoint "The Farm"		Law & Order "Blackmail"		Spectacle: Elvis		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	16:9-Picture	renegade	The Bad Son (2007) Catherine		Dent. Premiere. (CC)		Love-Death	G-Spot (CC)	News Final
	256	389	12 VI	New Canoe	Island Week	Kool Countdown (CC)		The Road to Avonlea		Stargate Atlantis "Echoes"		Bravo!FACT
	253	359	13 CITY	cooking	Amazing	Glenn Martin	Out There	The Rival (2006) Tracy Nelson, Heather Tom. (CC) (DVS)				Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Shallow Hal ★★ (2001) Gwyneth Paltrow, Jack Black.				CSI: NY "Officer Blue" (CC)		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)		The Insider	Hot Tech	NCIS: Los Angeles (CC)		48 Hours Mystery (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Backroads	Inside Edition	Parenthood "Wassup" (CC)		Law & Order "Blackmail"		Law & Order: SVU		KING 5 News
	288	380	24 ABC	Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dancing With the Stars The contestants perform. (CC)				Castle (CC)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News	Most Wanted	Wanda Sykes
news	502	390	23 NW	Greatest Streakers		National	Issue	National	Mansbridge	Greatest Streakers		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Newsroom
sports	407	419	22 RSP	English Premier League Soccer Teams TBA.				Skiing: Freestyle		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Poker
	400	400	30 TSN	Curling	Boxing Steve Molitor vs. Takalani Ndlovu II.			SportsCentre	Planet Speed	World Series of Poker		F1 Racing
family	552	543	25 YTV	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Star Wars IV: A New Hope ★★★★ (1977) Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford. Premiere.						Chicken	Futurama	King of Hill
	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic		Heartbeat "Sweet Sorrow"		Midsomer Murders A sleepwalking teacher. (N) (CC)				Theremin
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	Dolly Parton: One on One		The Show	Talkin' 'Bout	Gilmore Girls (CC)		Gilmore Girls (CC)		Tuckerville
	615	520	31 A&E	(5:00) The Andromeda Strain (2008) Benjamin Bratt. (CC)				(:01) The Andromeda Strain (2008) Benjamin Bratt, Eric McCormack. (CC)				
	521	560	34 TLC	Paranormal Court (N) (CC)		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		Paranormal Court (CC)		48 Hours
	616	522	33 SHO	Slings and Arrows (CC)		Lost in the Dark (2007, Suspense) Mae Whitman. (CC)				Night at the Museum ★★ (2006) (CC)		
	294	650	37 TBS	(6:00) Terminator 2: Judgment Day ★★★			The Chronicles of Riddick ★★ (2004) Vin Diesel, Colm Feore.					Resident Evil
	603	561	32 FN	Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		Hell's Kitchen (CC)		Gourmets	Gourmets	Chopped "Chopped Liver"		Nightmares
	-	-	35 AMC	Jeremiah	Silverado ★★★ (1985) Kevin Kline. Old West drifters shoot it out with sheriff, clan. (CC)					Silverado ★★★ (1985) (CC)		
	320	621	30 CEN	(6:10) Imagine That ★★		Julie & Julia ★★★ (2009) Meryl Streep. Premiere. (CC)				(:05) Revolutionary Road ★★★ (2008) (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	MTV Live	Movie Night	Sex News	1 girl 5 gays	MTV Live	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	1 girl 5 gays

SUNDAY 3/28/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Heartland "In the Cards" (N)		Keep Your Head Up Kid: The Don Cherry Story (2010)				CBC News: The National		News
	250	321	9 CTV	Human Target "Tanarak" (N)		The Amazing Race 16 (N)		Undercover Boss (N) (CC)		Cold Case (N) (CC)		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	King of Hill	Cleveland	Simpsons	Family Guy	The Celebrity Apprentice Creating a four-page advertorial.				News Final
	256	389	12 VI	TMZ (N) (CC)		Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		Desperate Housewives		(:01) Law & Order "Brazil"		New Canoe
	253	359	13 CITY	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Murdoch Mysteries		Survivorman "Ecuador"		Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: NY "Night, Mother"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	60 Minutes (N) (CC)		The Amazing Race 16 (N)		Undercover Boss (N) (CC)		Cold Case (N) (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Dateline NBC (CC)		Minute to Win It (N) (CC)		The Celebrity Apprentice Creating a four-page advertorial.				KING 5 News
	288	380	24 ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		(:01) Castle (CC)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	'Til Death (N)	'Til Death (N)	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Tucson	News	Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	23 NW	Reel Injun (2009, Documentary) Premiere.			Mansbridge	CBC News: The National		Reel Injun (2009, Documentary)		
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		Newsroom		State/Union
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Saturday Night Poker		The Ultimate Fighter				Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	Women's Hockey		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Motorcycle	SnowTrax	30 for 30 (CC)		SportsCentre
family	552	543	25 YTV	(6:00) The Last Mimzy ★★		League-Evil	Family Biz	Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Majority	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Futurama	Tripping-Rift
	268	354	5 KNO	Ghosts of the Black Sea		The Royal (CC)		Prime Suspect Tennison has been transferred. (N) (CC)				Empire-Word
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	Meet-Wilsons	Wilsons	Star Crossed	Star Crossed	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Funniest Home Videos		Hope & Faith
	615	520	31 A&E	Kirstie Alley	Kirstie Alley	Kirstie Alley	Kirstie Alley	G. Simmons	G. Simmons	G. Simmons	G. Simmons	Kirstie Alley
	521	560	34 TLC	Hoarding: Buried Alive (N)		The Trials of Amanda Knox		Hoarding: Buried Alive		Hoarding: Buried Alive		Heaviest Man
	616	522	33 SHO	Cra$h & Burn (CC)		Poison Ivy: The Secret Society (2008) Ryan Kennedy. (CC)				Damages (N) (CC)		Cra$h & Burn
	294	650	37 TBS	(:12) Shooter ★★ (2007, Suspense) Mark Wahlberg, Michael Peña. (CC)				(:42) Die Hard ★★★ (1988, Action) Bruce Willis. (CC)				
	603	561	32 FN	Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Jamie's Fowl Dinners (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Dinner
	-	-	35 AMC	Breaking Bad (N) (CC)		(:02) Breaking Bad (CC)		(:03) Mad Men (CC)		(:02) Breaking Bad (CC)		Force 10-Nav.
	320	621	30 CEN	(6:25) Monsters vs. Aliens		Yes Man ★★ (2008) Jim Carrey. (CC)			(:45) Run Fat Boy Run ★★ (2007) Simon Pegg. (CC)			
	581	566	101 MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	1 girl 5 gays	MTV Live	Movie Night	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	1 girl 5 gays

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Run to The Hills

Fans of The Hills, you might want to get the DVR ready: Season 6 will be the last for the reality show. After years of shopping, hook-ups and catfights, MTV's popular show will be going their separate ways. **PEOPLE.COM**

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Phoenix, Live in Sidney

MUSIC The band Phoenix is giving fans a new reason to enjoy it — a free download featuring eight songs. Called Live in Sidney, the album was recorded Down Under and can be downloaded from wearephoenix.com.

2 Curious George

POP CULTURE Turns out the curious cartoon primate has more of a history than just getting into mischief. A new exhibit at the New York Jewish Museum suggests the children's book character was created by an equally interesting Jewish couple, Hans and Margaret Rey, who had their own curious adventures during the Second World War. thejewishmuseum.org

3 Sherlock Homes

DVD Ah, the game's afoot; Robert Downey Jr.'s Golden Globe-winning turning as Sherlock Holmes is available on DVD this Tuesday. The Guy Ritchie directed film also features Jude Law as Dr. Watson and Canada's own Rachel McAdams as a thieving seductress.

4 Joe Fresh Spring 2010

BEAUTY Cheap and cheerful is back with Joe Fresh's spring selection of makeup to give you a healthy glow and add some drama to those winter-tired eyes. With colours like Bloom, Berry, Honey, Papaya and Blossom, how can you not think of summer? For store locations, visit joe.ca.

5 Hot Tub Time Machine

MOVIE With one of the best B-movie-ish titles from recent years, Hot Tube Time Machine could be the mindless remedy everyone needs to beat the seasonal blahs. Who can resist seeing actor John Cusack return to his career utopia, the '80s. Along for the soak are "me"-era mainstays like Chevy Chase and Crispin Glover.

6 Everything is going to Kill Everybody

BOOK End-of-day talk isn't just reserved for the cultists and doomsayers; Now everyone can enlighten their apocalyptic consciousness with Robert Brockway's look at terrifying ways the world wants us dead — from natural disasters to gray goo, and space disasters to off-their-rocker robots.

7 Gap sale

STYLE Can't live without khakis? In need of a fresh set of basic tees? Grab 'em at Gap's Spring Sale, with up to 40 per cent off a range of items from blouses to blazers, and stash your saved cash for a round of drinks.

Octomom gets oddball offers

Nadya Suleman's octuplets have brought her plenty of fame, but fortune appears to be another story.

Her father, Ed Doud, has defaulted on a $450,000 US balloon payment on a half-million dollar house he bought last year for the family to live in, mortgage holder Amer Haddadin said Wednesday.

Although Suleman's lawyer, Jeff Czech, said earlier this week his client's father was hoping to work something out, he was blunt when it came to the balloon payment: "Mr. Doud at this moment doesn't have $450,000 to pay off," he said.

Not that Suleman doesn't have the opportunity to raise the money quickly, although not in ways she would want to.

Steven Hirsch, co-chairman of Vivid Entertainment, one of the world's largest purveyors of adult films, announced this week that his company would pay off Suleman's mortgage if she would make a porn film.

> **"No porn. Just Peta."**
> Jeff Czech
> Nadya Suleman's lawyer

Czech did say that Suleman had accepted a much more modest offer from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals — $5,000 to put a sign in her front yard proclaiming, "Don't Let Your Dog or Cat Become an Octomom. Always Spay or Neuter."

"No porn. Just Peta. Nadya prefers animals over men," Czech said in an email exchange with The Associated Press.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mix of Six

Abbamania and Night Fever

When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: Red Robinson Show Theatre

The world's No. 1 ABBA tribute production comes to Vancouver with an all-Canadian cast. Tix: $34.50, blvdcasino.com

Thunder From Down Under

When: Friday and Saturday
Where: River Rock Show Theatre, Red Robinson Show Theatre

The internationally acclaimed male revue is sexy and crackling with high energy. riverrock.com and blvdcasino.com.

The Love List

When: Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Where: Metro Theatre, 1370 SW Marine Dr. Vancouver.

Norm Foster stars (and wrote) this play about a man on his 50th birthday who receives a 'love list' as a gift. Tickets and info: vancouverplayhouse.com.

Billy Bishop Goes To War

When: Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m.
Where: Arts Club Theatre, Granville Island Stage.

Featuring a pianist and one actor playing 18 characters, the musical follows First World War flying ace Billy Bishop from cavalry officer to Canada's most-decorated officer. Tickets and info: artsclub.com.

First National Chinese Stem Cell Drive

When: Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Aberdeen Centre (Richmond)

Stem cell donors are urgently needed as transplants need to be done with one's ethnic group. Signing up requires taking a swab of the inside of the mouth — if you're called to donate, it's not worse than giving blood. Info: onematch.ca.

Portobello West

When: Saturday and Sunday
Where: Rocky Mountaineer Station (1755 Cottrell)

More than 110 local artists and designers offer their one-of-a-kind fashion and art in one of Vancouver's most impressive indoor venues. Tix: $2. Info: Vancouver.portobellowest.com.

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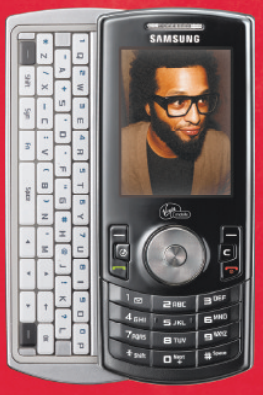

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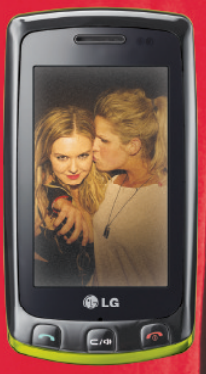

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Lips are locked

Will & Grace actress Megan Mullally has abruptly pulled out of the cast of Lips Together, Teeth Apart, a Broadway comedy that was meant to premiere in a couple of weeks, popeater.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

It's like a game of chess

BUT THE PIECES ARE CHUNKS OF HER OWN HEART In the wake of a scandal that has rocked her marriage, Sandra Bullock is quietly determining her next move, say friends.

Stunned by revelations that her husband Jesse James cheated with tattoo model Michelle McGee, Bullock "needs time to grieve and process what has happened," a close friend tells People in its new cover story.

The friend says Bullock, 45, learned of her husband's betrayal just eight days after her triumphant Oscar win Mar. 7 this year.

"Her family was everything to her," adds the friend.

Another pal tells People that while Bullock completely trusted James, 40, he could show another side of himself when she wasn't with him.

"Jesse is such a chameleon," says this pal.

According to a source close to James, the motorcycle mogul hopes to salvage his marriage and is currently focused on caring for his three children: Chandler, 15; Jesse Jr., 12; and Sunny, 6.

"He's trying to keep the lives of the children normal," says the James source.

GETTY IMAGES

METRO NEWS SERVICES

A princely sum owed

PAY UP OR SHIP OUT Prince reportedly owes around $506,000 US in taxes, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Carver County tax records show the Purple Rain singer — real name Prince Rogers Nelson — and his companies PRN Music Corp. and Paisley Park Enterprises Inc. owe the combined sum in delinquent property taxes to the state of Minnesota for 2009.

PRN Music Corp. — which is based in the musician's Paisley Park Studios in Chanhassen, which is located west of Minneapolis — alone owes more than $227,000 in taxes to the state and other government bodies.

Prince, 51, now has until April 21 to file an objection to the sum he and his businesses are alleged to owe, if he does not "a court judgment will be entered against the properties for the unpaid tax, penalty, interest, and costs," according to local newspaper the Chaska Herald.

However, he has until now and May 2013 to pay off the sum until any forfeiture process could start against Prince's listed properties.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Vogue covergirl? Fat chance

IN OTHER NEWS, TENTS SALES ARE UP, VOGUE SALES ARE DOWN. SUCK ON THAT, WINTOUR! Even with all of the fame and Oscar buzz Precious got this past year, that's still not enough to land star Gabourey Sidibe on the pages of Vogue magazine, popeater.com reports.

According sources, Sidibe's weight is what's keeping her out of Anna Wintour's publication, where being rail-thin is a necessity, adds popeater.com

Sources tell the website that the editors of Vogue magazine rejected the idea of letting Oscar nominee Gabby Sidibe grace its fashionable pages because of her size.

"She's a joke in the fashion community.

"What she wore on the red carpet at the Academy Awards wasn't a dress, it was a tent," one person with the magazine reportedly said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Can Cannes handle Campbell?

OR THE 12 TONS OF CAVIAR, 554 CRATES OF KRUG, 121 VENETIAN CHANDELIERS AND 643 OF THE BIGGEST EGOS IN THE UNIVERSE Cannes will be the place to be on May 22, when Naomi Campbell celebrates her 40th birthday with a lavish bash thrown by her billionaire Russian boyfriend, Vladimir Doronin, according to Page Six.

Doronin is reportedly spending millions on the "party of the year," which will coincide with the Cannes Film Festival to make it easier on some of the A-list guests.

"Naomi's birthday is going to be as lavish as other recent big celebrity 40th birthdays, such as Sean Combs, Jay-Z and Simon Cowell," a source says.

"Invites are already being sent out and people are expected to jet in from New York, London and Moscow."

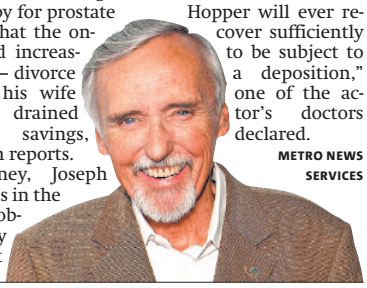
METRO WORLD NEWS

A deteriorating Dennis

NO COURT, NO CHEMO, NO CHANCE? Shocking new court documents report that actor Dennis Hopper is too frail to undergo chemotherapy for prostate cancer and that the ongoing — and increasingly nasty — divorce battle with his wife Victoria has drained his savings, popeater.com reports.

His attorney, Joseph Mannis, states in the filing — obtained by TMZ — that because Hopper is so terminally ill, he is unable to defend himself in divorce proceedings.

"It is doubtful that Mr. Hopper will ever recover sufficiently to be subject to a deposition," one of the actor's doctors declared.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

What Rimes with Tiger?

LIGER, LAGER, LANGUOR? NAH, IT'S LEANN Before either of them were married, Tiger Woods and LeAnn Rimes reportedly dated, sources tell Us Weekly.

"They hooked up and everything," a source says of the 2002 fling.

"Tiger was really into her. He likes those blondes."

Rimes' father reportedly insisted they call it quits because he didn't appreciate the seven-year age difference between the two.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

ABBY ELLIOTT wants to see some fashion sense, **AMY WINEHOUSE** really wants to learn how to drive, **ROGER EBERT** wants a new pope, and **LINDSAY LOHAN** wants everyone to know her stumble wasn't her fault.

@elliottdotabby Uch Jesse James the least you can do is take off those overalls @amyjademermaid I WANT. DRIVING LESSONS..an machete BUT.I.WANT.DRIVING.LESSONS.MORE @ebertchicago Pope Benedict didn't want to the Church to be harmed by scandal. Therefore, he should resign. @lindsaylohan Only I would get pushed into a large, sharp plant by crazy paparazzi!!! I need to start wearing more flats

METRO NEWS SERVICES

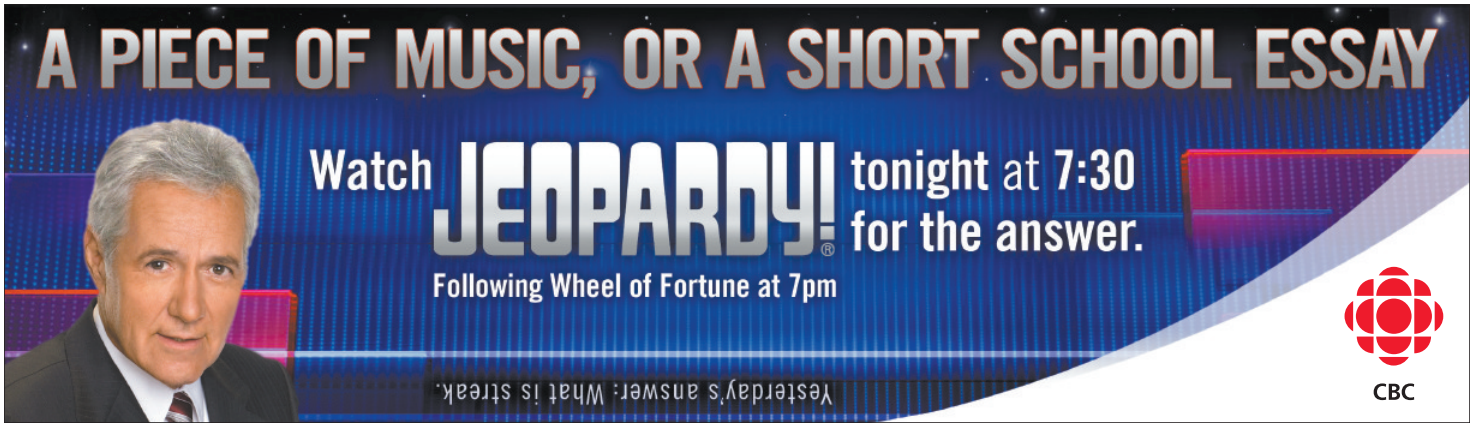
Garry's really great idea

MAYBE SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT IN THE PAST Garry Marshal is set to bring his classic sitcom Laverne and Shirley to the big screen, and he's looking to some of his Valentine's Day team to make it happen.

"Jamie (Foxx) and I are trying to do it. He's writing it," Marshal tells TV Guide.

"It's a whole different modern day take on how they came up on the streets during difficult times.

METRO WORLD NEWS



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Sunday 70% Rain 10°/6°
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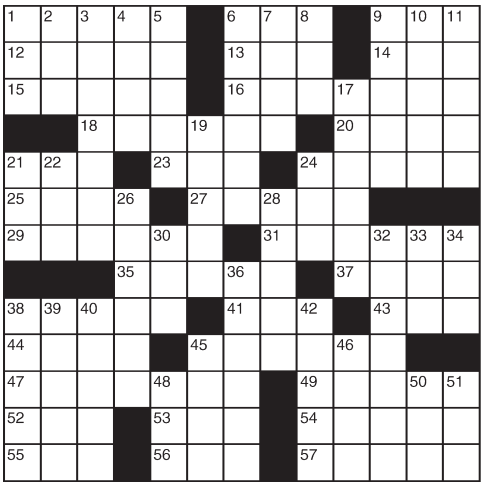
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Hickory nut
6 Swindle
9 Timetable abbr.
12 Rib
13 Big bother
14 Placekicker's pride
15 Change
16 Bungle
18 Pricey appetizer
20 Kennedy matriarch
21 Bonfire residue
23 Thither
24 Arts supporter?
25 Quarterback Flutie
27 Delicious
29 Wool provider
31 Rough with small waves
35 Stair part
37 Houston acronym
38 Senses
41 Journey segment
43 Gratuity
44 "— Ask of You"
45 Erse
47 Popular condiment
49 Temporary, as a committee
52 Rock producer Brian
53 Foolish sort
54 Drink loudly
55 Former veep Quayle
56 Most common English word
57 Dividing membranes

DOWN

1 Sch. org.
2 Wet wriggler
3 Acquire parity
4 Over the bounding main
5 Brash
6 Poolside shelter
7 Stench
8 Denier's word
9 Pal of d'Artagnan
10 Stir to action
11 Ward off
17 Coloring stick
19 Tittles
21 Oklahoma city
22 Scale member
24 Ordinal suffix
26 Vampire thwarter
28 Pile of rocks near a hill
30 Opposite of "trans-"
32 Mend
33 Omega preceder
34 Mouth, slangily
36 Pass
38 Photoshopped, maybe
39 Dementieva of tennis
40 Rock legend John
42 Tumbler
45 Jet forth
46 Between jobs
48 Chapeau
50 Table scrap
51 IRS employee

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	7	6		3	1			
	5			2			4	3
	4				8		9	
6				1				
7		8				3		9
				8				2
	3		1				2	
5	6			9			7	
			2	4		5	3	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

R	U	N	G		F	A	Y	
A	S	E	A		O	H	O	
P	E	R	U		R	A	Y	
T	R	O	C	H	E		O	G
				H	E	N		
I	N	F	O		O	F	F	E
T	O	O			O	O	O	
S	T	R	A	I	N	E	R	
		E	L	M			E	T
A	C	C	E	P	T		H	O
C	L	A	P		A	L	A	
M	E	S	H		P	E	N	
E	F	T	S		S	A	D	

A	F	A	R					
M	O	V	E					
B	R	E	D					
O	G	L	E	R	S			
E	E	L						
F	E	R	I	N	G			
O	F	F						
M	I	A						
A	B	B	Y					
E	T	C						
H	O	R	R	O	R			
A	L	A						
P	E	N						
S	A	D						
S	E	N	T					
S	A	K	E					

9	7	3	2	5	1	8	4	6
2	5	1	6	8	4	3	7	9
6	8	4	9	3	7	1	5	2
1	2	8	4	9	6	7	3	5
7	3	9	1	2	5	6	8	4
5	4	6	3	7	8	2	9	1
8	6	2	7	4	9	5	1	3
4	1	5	8	6	3	9	2	7
3	9	7	5	1	2	4	6	8

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken Salad with Dates and Minted Yogurt

INGREDIENTS:

4 skinless boneless chicken breasts
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 tsp ground mace
3 tbsp olive oil
1 romaine lettuce, torn
150 g arugula
4 scallions, sliced
398 mL can artichoke hearts, drained and halved
8 mint sprigs, chopped, plus extra to garnish
1 cup plain yogurt
4 tbsp mixed seeds (sunflower, sesame, etc)
100 g dried pitted dates, sliced

METHOD:

1. Preheat broiler. Put chicken in shallow roasting pan. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, garlic, mace and oil, then turn over to distribute seasonings.
2. Broil chicken until well browned on both sides. Test by piercing thickest part with point of knife; juices should run clear and flesh should be white, not pink. Leave chicken in pan.
3. Meanwhile, mix lettuce, arugula, scallions and artichoke hearts. Divide salad among four plates. Mix mint into yogurt and set aside.
4. Turn chicken over and sprinkle with seeds, pressing on with spoon. Grill for 10-20 seconds to heat and brown seeds. Add dates and stir with seeds and juices around chicken.
5. Slice chicken and arrange on salads with dates and seeds, spooning over cooking juices. Drizzle mint and yogurt dressing over and serve, garnished with mint.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will fall out with someone in a position of authority today and it will be the kind of clash that innocent bystanders move out of the way to avoid!

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Someone at work or in your social circle will have a great idea today and you will be annoyed that you did not think of it first. Don't worry.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You may be tempted to get rid of something that has been in your possession for many years but don't be too hasty.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
If you let someone get away with statements that are clearly untrue they will take that as an invitation to lie to you all the time.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Today's Sun-Pluto aspect will give you the chance to get rid of one or two things, and maybe one or two people, you no longer need.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
It would appear that someone is deliberately making things difficult for you and the more upset you get the more they will do it.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Some of the changes now taking place in your life may not be too pleasant but the planets indicate they are necessary so go with the flow.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
If you look too hard for an offbeat answer to a long-standing problem today you may miss the more obvious solution that is staring you in the face.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A work or money problem isn't going to just fade away – at some stage you will have to deal with it. Make the changes that matter.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
If you want something enough you will find a way to get it but you may then decide you don't really want it after all.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
If you are offered something free of charge today you will, of course, assume there is a catch of some kind. But is there?

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Not every question has an answer and if you are smart you won't allow yourself to get worked up about something that is illogical.

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Barcelona	from $849 + taxes & fees $369

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4-Day Tour — ~~was $1195~~ now $1095 taxes & fees included
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Greece & Turkey
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Ireland
8-Day Tour — ~~was $1699~~ now $1649 taxes & fees included
HIGHLIGHTS Galway, Limerick, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Cork, Waterford, and Vale of Avoca. Roundtrip Dublin.

European Highlights
16-Day Tour — ~~was $1975~~ now $1825 taxes & fees included
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3 Nights 4-Star + Activity — from $379‡ taxes & fees included
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Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $549 + taxes & fees $169
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+ taxes & fees $133
INCLUDES Waikiki accom.

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights — from $229 + taxes & fees $105
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